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USSR Says U.S. Waging 'Cold War' on Cuba

PA3108032690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Panama, 30 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A ranking Soviet official has criticized U.S. policy toward Cuba, describing it as "typical of a cold war." He proposed a dialogue between Havana and Washington to diminish the tension existing between the two countries.

Yan Burliay, the USSR Foreign Ministry's deputy director for Latin America, told ACAN-EFE that "in Cuba's case, the United States is following principles that are typical of a cold war.

Burliay argued that "the current problems can only be solved through a dialogue between the United States and Cuba." He warned that Washington "should not expect any change (in Havana) as long as its military pressure, economic blockade, and cultural aggression continue.

Burliay, who supported UN Secetary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's proposal in favor of Cuba's participation in multilateral peace negotiations in Central America, said that the USSR is making efforts in favor of such a dialogue in several countries in the region.

Burliay, who is second in command concerning Soviet policy in Latin America, cited the "Angolan example," where Soviets, Americans, and Cubans have participated in UN-sponsored negotiations to end the civil war.

According to Burliay, "if this has not been possible in Central America, it is not Cuba's fault."

"We must end the current situation, which is making Cuba react like a fortress under siege and attack. This depends to a large extent on the United States," added the Soviet official, who is touring several Central American countries and Venezuela.

Burliay pointed to the "friendship treaty" signed between Moscow and Havana at the end of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Cuba in April 1989. The treaty revealed the growing differences between the two countries.

Burliay insisted that "the USSR will continue cooperating and maintaining relations with Cuba based upon the principle of noninterference in internal affairs."

The Soviet diplomat has met over the past few days with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera, and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus to discuss the situation in Central America and, especially, ways to end the armed conflict in El Salvador "through dialogue and negotiation."

"Perestroyka has sparked the USSR's interest in Latin America and has allowed our actions to be free of ideological opinions," Burliay explained.

He also pointed out the restoration of relations with Chile and the visits, for the first time, by a Soviet foreign minister to Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, three countries whose presidents have traveled to Moscow—also for the first time.

Cabinet, Police Officers Testify at Arms Inquiry

FL3008233690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2303 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 30, CANA—Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird will give testimony Friday before the commission of inquiry into the transshipment of arms through Antigua to drug barons in Colombia. Bird has been the driving force behind calls for the probe to be held, in which his brother and former works minister Vere Bird, Jr. is implicated. Vere Bird, Jr. has denied involvement.

The inquiry is into its second stage, and during Thursday's session, Cabinet Secretary Lionel Stevens acknowledged that he had signed a letter appointing Israeli Maurice Safarti, as Antigua and Barbuda's special envoy on May 16, 1985.

Safarti has been identified as a key player in the arms deal.

Stevens had said earlier that he did not sign the letter, but told the commission Thursday that it had been tampered with.

"The information on the document (is) not true. Words are omitted from the real cabinet minute," Stevens told sole commissioner, British jurist, Louis Blom-Cooper.

The cabinet secretary had said originally that Safarti was appointed on May 1, 1985, but he explained Thursday that at two subsequent cabinet meetings "changes were made to the minutes of the first meeting so as to restrict Safarti as an envoy in respect of the United States water project". According to Stevens, at a meeting on May 4, cabinet discussed that Caribbean water programme, said to cost 580 million U.S. dollars and agreed to assign Safarti to do the project for Antigua.

Although he could not confirm whether Safarti was being paid as a "special envoy", Stevens told the commission that the Israeli had at one time appeared before cabinet to seek assistance to overcome financial problems with his Roydon melon farm.

Also giving testimony was Assistant Superintendent of Police Reuben Martin, who told the commission how three Israelis implicated in the deal, entered Antigua on November 16, 1988 on a flight from Miami, but that their entry forms could not be found in immigration records.

Another witness, Captain Trevor Thomas, who is second in command of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force,

spoke of overhearing a telephone conversation his commanding officer, Clyde Walker, had in which he indicated to the person on the line that he wanted to know if (Col. Yair) Klein and (Pinchas) Shahar "are who they say they are".

Thomas told the commission that he "always heard Mr. Bird, Jr. is the national security advisor. I have never (seen) it written anywhere. My commanding officer told me. It is known to the force". [passage omitted]

Espin News Conference on Cuban Crime Prevention

FL3108003290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2343 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Telephone report by Virginia Maria Pineiro from Havana's Palace of Conventions on the "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Excerpt] Crime prevention in Cuba is based on the respect given to life, health, work, education, and the constant search for solutions to society's problems. This was stated by Vilma Espin, president of the Crime Prevention and Social Attention Commission, during a news conference in Havana's Palace of Conventions, site of the Eighth UN Conference on Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation.

Vilma discussed many aspects, among the most outstanding of which is that there are no juvenile courts in Cuba. Instead, the youths are rehabilitated through education. There are 71 schools for behavior problems with more than 5,000 students and 13 reeducation centers with 900 students. In this last case, the youths have been involved in a crime.

Vilma emphasized that we do not live in a perfect society but a very human one where we are all ready to work and resolve the problems in the measure in which our resources will allow. [passage omitted]

Venezuela Says No Special Oil Terms for C.A.

PA3008201690 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 30 Aug 90 p 5

[Text] The Venezuelan Government decided last week that it cannot accept the request from the Central American presidents to give the countries of the region preferential treatment for the purchase of petroleum.

This was confirmed on 29 August by Venezuelan Ambassador to Honduras Dionisio Marcano, who added that the Venezuelan Cabinet on 24 August analyzed the letter sent by President Rafael Callejas—the only one that had arrived from the Central American presidents at that time—and decided that Venezuela cannot step outside the OPEC structure and, "unfortunately, it cannot reduce prices."

The diplomat explained that Venezuela's prices are those set by OPEC and that it cannot violate OPEC's decisions. In mid-September, Marcano will return to Caracas to head the Protocol Department of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

Last week, the Central American presidents sent letters to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari asking them, in view of the crisis provoked by the conflict in the Middle East, to establish a mechanism "that will permit us to reduce our foreign currency expenditures due to the increase in the prices of the hydrocarbons" imported by these nations in accordance with the San Jose agreement.

The presidents also proposed that the differential in dollars that Mexico and Venezuela leave in these nations for development projects—equivalent to 20 percent of the imports—be increased to 30 percent. Central America obtains most of its crude from Venezuela and Mexico.

Nevertheless, Marcano indicated that the Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry and the Venezuelan Investment Fund will seek a mechanism—which would not be opposed by OPEC—to cooperate with Central America.

"We must convince Mexico (which is not an OPEC member) to accept the increase of the differential to 30 percent, and we must convince OPEC that this measure should not be considered a lowering of prices."

The ambassador added that once the crisis caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is over, Central America's request to ease the burden from oil prices will be addressed.

Marcano stressed that during President Carlos Andres Perez' recent visit to Tegucigalpa, he accepted the proposal to include processed petroleum by-products in the benefits of the San Jose agreement.

The ambassador announced that the Central American economy ministers will travel to Caracas on 4 September to participate in a meeting of the Latin America Economic System (SELA). Honduran Economy Minister Ramon Medina Luna will use the opportunity to meet with the officials of the Energy and Mines Ministry, the Venezuelan Investment Fund, and President Perez.

Cuba

Mistreatment of Chernobyl Children Denied

FL3008200090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Jose Ramon Balaguer, Cuban ambassador to the USSR, today censured a letter that appeared in the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper on the alleged mistreatment in our country of Soviet children who were affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. In a news conference, Balaguer said that the article published in the organ of the USSR's Leninst Komsomol does not even express the newspaper's opinion, but rather that of a single individual.

In the letter, (Vladimir Ladinko), leader of the grassroots Komsomol in Chernobyl, Ukraine, refers to what he calls a lack of proper environmental, medical, and food conditions in the Jose Marti Pioneer City where a group of Soviet children live.

Whoever attempts to crack the friendship between Cuba and the USSR will be very disappointed because there are many Soviets who know the truth and will take it upon themselves to dispel such falsehoods, Balaguer warned.

Mexico's Cardenas Ends Three-Day Visit

FL3008125590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, national coordinator of the Democratic Party of Mexico [as heard], has returned to his country after a three-day stay in Cuba.

He was seen off at the Jose Marti International Airport by Manuel Pineiro, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and chief of the America Department, and by other officials. Invited by the PCC leadership, Engineer Cardenas, son of former Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas, visited several centers of economic and social interest.

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] I believe it was a very short visit. I would have liked to stay longer and tour other areas in the interior of the country. Nevertheless, we saw important advances such as the work of the construction contingents; the progress being made in the construction of the facilities for the Pan-American Games; and the work being done to improve unhealthy areas, build housing, and rehabilitate social conditions. We saw that the country is undertaking an intense developmental process, making efforts to rectify mistakes, and deal with the harassment the country has been subjected to. We saw that progress is being made and that problems are being solved with the active participation of the people.

[Unidentified reporter] Can we then say that you leave satisfied with your visit?

[Cardenas] As satisfied as we have been every time we have been able to come to Cuba.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. We wish you a good trip.

[Cardenas] Thank you, thank you very much. [end recording]

Oramas Begins Official Talks With DPRK

FL3008210390 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry delegation presided over by Vice Foreign Minister Oscar Oramas today began official talks in Pyongyang with the DPRK.

In a meeting with his counterpart (?Chang Yong-chun), the Cuban vice foreign minister analyzed the current development of relations between the two states, which they described as highly positive and constantly growing. They also discussed the international situation, including the worsening crisis in the Arab Persian Gulf caused by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the concentration of military equipment from the United States and other countries in the military blockade of Iraq.

Oscar Oramas described his meeting with his DPRK counterpart as productive and cordial and he said that these meetings will continue to strengthen bilateral relations.

Central Committee Member Arrives in Vietnam

FL3008202990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Melba Hernandez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], today arrived in the Vietnamese capital to attend the festivities marking the 45th anniversary of Vietnam's national day, which will be celebrated on 2 September.

There is nothing more valuable than winning the affection of the Vietnamese people, the heroine of the Moncada and former ambassador to that country said. She also stressed that Ho Chi Minh's thought is still in practice. President Ho Chi Minh died in 1969. The beloved Vietnamese leader read his nation's Declaration of Independence 45 years ago in the then historic (Vading) plaza in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Cuban delegation headed by Hernandez, who is also director of the Center for Studies on Asia and Oceania, also comprises Tanya Maceira, deputy chief of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the PCC Central Committee, and Armando Saucedo, Cuban ambassador to Vietnam.

Risquet Meets With Iran's Prosecutor General

FL3008114590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, has received (Mohammad Rei-Chari), prosecutor general of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with whom he held a fraternal meeting.

The high-level Iranian leader, who is in Cuba heading the delegation attending the Eighth UN Conference on Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation, gave a detailed explanation of the goals and characteristics of the Islamic Revolution.

Risquet informed him about the history of the Cuban Revolution, its specific characteristics, and the (?situation) it is now facing. He also made an assessment of the current international situation.

Rodriguez Meets With Algerian Justice Minister

FL3108014390 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0135 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Algerian Justice Minister Ali Benflis, who is presiding over his country's delegation to the Eighth UN Conference on Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation.

During the meeting, the two officials held a friendly exchange on the current political and social development of their respective countries amid the complex international situation. The historic and extensive ties of friendship that unite Algeria and Cuba were also evident during the meeting.

Christian Students Movement Holds Meeting

FL3008182490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Report by Manolo Garcia from Matanzas]

[Text] The participants of the eighth assembly of the Universal Federation of Christian Student Movements of Latin America and the Caribbean have approved a resolution of solidarity with the Cuban people. It recognizes the value of its revolution and its anti-imperialist, Marti, and Bolivar ideology. The document also expresses the federation's appreciation for the morale and material aid given by the state.

The text was issued during the closing of the event at the Evangelical Theology Seminar in Matanzas. Delegates from 14 countries analyzed the outlook of the movement which includes the struggle of youths against neocolonialism and dependency and a greater emphasis in studies to improve the situation of Latin American women.

The meeting also served to elect the federation's board of directors for the next four years and to prepare the area representatives to the world congress of Christian student movements to be held in Paris.

Aldan Meets With Students

FL3008215490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2142 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Report by Dulce Maria Corbelle]

[Text] Representatives of the Eighth Regional Assembly of the Universal Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Christian Student Movements were received today by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and Jose Felipe Carneado, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Religious Affairs Department. The two leaders were briefed on the objectives and topics discussed at the assembly, which met in Matanzas from 21-28 August. Some of the topics analyzed include the defense of socialist achievements in Cuba.

New Product Replaces Fuel Used To Clean Planes

FL3008140290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] A new product has been created to substitute the fuel that has been traditionally used to eliminate stains in the outer surface of planes. The essential components of this new product are (siporex) block residues and detergents. The powder was successfully applied and its use was approved by the technical advisory department of the Jose Marti International Airport. A proposal was made to produce it at the industrial level.

* ANPP President Discusses People's Government

90CA0097A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 20 Jun 90 pp 50-55

[Interview with Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], by Susana Tesoro; date and place not given; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Following is an interview with Juan Escalona Reguera, the recently appointed president of the National Assembly. The interview has made it possible for us to estimate how much of the people's strength is lost between schematics and formal structures.

We conducted a two hour interview with the youngest of the presidents which the Cuban Parliament has had during its 14 years of existence. He preferred not to answer the first question on whether a jurist as effective as he was during his six years as minister of justice, is thinking of continuing in the National Assembly. In a friendly and patient way he agreed to answer the other questions, for which BOHEMIA and I are deeply grateful.

[Tesoro] Apart from its strengths, what defects have you been able to observe in the functioning of the organs of the people's government?

[Escalona] We should begin with the view that the structure of the people's government has made possible the achievement of many things which could not have been accomplished without it. However, the fact that these achievements have been realized while these organs were being developed indicates that the process has been unsatisfactory in some of its aspects.

In the first place there are defects which show up at meetings for the presentation of reports. We insist on the idea that municipal assemblies are made up of genuine representatives of our people, of representatives whom the voters choose directly. I think that, when our citizens express their views on the most immediate problems which affect their lives within their districts, part of the power which the country has vested in all of those delegates, as vehicles for the expression of political views and for hearing concerns going beyond the framework of the district involved, is lost.

Furthermore, the delegate is only seen as being in office for the people to demand things from him. Often it is stated that one delegate is better than another because he can resolve more problems. However, we should take into account the fact that the delegate himself does not have the solution to a problem in his hands. That is almost always in the hands of government officials in the municipality or, at times, higher up, in the province.

The cause of the difficulties experienced by the delegate in many cases is the result of the attitude and understanding displayed by the relevant executive committee toward the complaints of the people, the seriousness with which it considers each complaint, and the material possibility which it has of integrating into its plans those matters which come up time and again. In that case it is not a matter of the delegate. The cause of the problems is at another level.

Governing Versus Administering?

[Tesoro] Could such an inadequacy be related to the duality of the functions of the executive committees, which in the majority of cases administer rather than govern?

[Escalona] Certainly, in their desire to eliminate difficulties, members of executive committees, at times, do the work of administrators or directors who are subordinate to them on the executive committees. They sympathize with the problems and wind up performing those duties. As a result, they cease to govern a territory and turn into managers of administrative activity.

It is important to know that during the last few years the people's government has continued to increase the scope of the tasks authorized by decisions of the central administration or by the government, without our having thought out the capabilities of their structure.

There is another aspect: the changes which take place in the membership of executive committees. Elections are held every two and a half years and, in the case of a municipality, if a member of the executive committee is not reelected, he cannot continue to be a member. This brings us to take into consideration whether it would be appropriate to extend the term of office of these delegates to ensure they are better prepared for their duties.

[Tesoro] In this connection, could you explain to me the difference between governing and administering?

[Escalona] Governing means developing a program of action on the basis of an analysis of the problems faced in a given territory. Governing involves making use, of course, of the resources and possibilities available. Furthermore, it involves setting priorities on the sequence in which problems need to be solved. It involves dedicating yourself to work over the long term, because you do not govern for just a week.

Administration is a daily activity involving those problems which require immediate action. The difference lies in the fact that in governing you have to start with an analysis of the cause of problems. The other function involves working toward a solution of daily problems, which are the consequences of the underlying causes.

Governing involves ensuring that laws are complied with in an equal way in all territories and not on the basis of the interpretation made of them in a given municipality. A very important aspect of our present task is making working methods uniform.

[Tesoro] I think that human beings, imperfect as they are, find it easy to split up and adopt a position in opposition to the efforts made by the executive committee. What do you think of that?

[Escalona] This is an idea which has been considered at length in the various assemblies. An analysis has been made as to whether executive committee members should be delegates of the rank and file and whether they should run the risk of reelection every two and a half years, or not. The possibility has been raised of making the executive committee independent. That is, its members should be nominated by the president of the assembly and approved by it, without being delegates.

Many, positive things could come out of this variation. First, the municipality could choose the man of the highest capacity to work in several areas. Second, provided that the man works well, the assembly would approve him and continue training him as a government official. At present it is very difficult for a man to do his practical work and continue to study and prepare himself with the result that, perhaps at the end of two and a half years, if he is not reelected, that effort will not have been worthwhile for him.

It is also stated that if there were a directorate of the executive committee which the assembly does not control at the same time, the latter would be freer. The

permanent committees could play their roles without encountering resistance from a member of the executive committee who unconsciously reacts against the evaluation of his area of activity, which is his job.

[Tesoro] As it has been described, would the executive committee turn out to be a kind of cabinet at the local level?

[Escalona] Exactly, and we have discussed this. Why should ministers not have to be deputies and why should members of the executive committee have to be delegates? That would make it possible for the assembly to propose the most efficient government employees, without being faced with the limitation that they must be delegates.

Are Central State Organisms Moving Up or Sideways?

[Tesoro] To what extent can the proper functioning of the government be carried on, based on the reciprocal invasion of powers between the people's government and the organisms of the central state administration?

[Escalona] The constitution of the republic speaks of a dual subordination. This necessarily requires a very detailed analysis and the determination, based on all accumulated experience, of how these relationships should function. In this connection there are different views on the part of those who direct the organisms of the central state administration. Some people think that, because these have to do with national services, they should have more responsibility, which means more intervention in local administrative organs.

On the other hand, we should keep in mind that the local organs are the government of a territory. It is supposed that the local government should receive directions on how to act from the central government and not from a member of the government, which in this case would be a minister.

I am convinced that strengthening the work of municipal organs so they play an increasing role in government would help a great deal in this sense. The possibility of making decisions, in view of the shortages of resources which we suffer from, should rest with the territory concerned, with those who live with the people, and those who know what is essential.

[Tesoro] Many people think—incorrectly—that the fundamental reason why a delegate loses prestige and authority is his inability to solve problems. What do you think?

[Escalona] Our delegates are representatives of the people. As we know, they are not professionals, and they work very hard, with a great deal of devotion. Some of them have been delegates since the people's government was established. I agree with you that authority does not come only from the fact of solving material problems.

The work is quite difficult. However, if we are going to evaluate delegates by what problems they solve, we would have to evaluate first the executive committee and the other organs which stand above it.

We would say that there are also delegates who resign, because not everything is black and white. There are shades of gray. Some of them are used to playing the bureaucratic game and hearing answers which do not convince even them. This is something which the voters cannot understand. When a delegate resigns, it is better for him to cease being a delegate.

[Tesoro] No doubt the existence of certain, bureaucratic structures hampers flexibility in terms of the delegate's work. What analyses have been made in this connection?

[Escalona] It is obvious that a plethora of controls and paperwork make anyone's work more difficult. This is part of our whole system of formalism, whose weight is felt on how the people's government functions, which goes from the well known percentage of persons attending meetings for making reports up to activity in emulation campaigns, such as the municipality which provides the most assistance or the one which solves the most questions. All of this is done in terms of numbers, and those numbers are based on reports which the delegate makes.

We have to look for much more flexible mechanisms. Furthermore, that procedure breaks the link between the executive committee and the people, because the members of the executive committee know the people only through paperwork. I think that the executive committee, to the extent that it frees itself from administrative responsibility, should in the municipality or in the district, be seeing each situation with its own eyes.

[Tesoro] Then the delegate is part of the government, even when he is not attending an assembly meeting?

[Escalona] The delegate is elected by his neighbors and is part of the government, both within and outside the assembly. However, given the way in which our constitution is written, it seems to us that the power of the delegates can only be exercised when the assembly is in session.

Here it would be appropriate to analyze the times when the assembly meets. I think that a meeting every six months kills any possibility of being up to date, because when we come to study a problem, months have gone by already.

I consider that the assembly should meet whenever necessary, without the formalities of having minutes of the previous session or checking the points of agreements already reached. They meet to deal with an important question, and that is all.

When Does the Delegate Speak?

[Tesoro] At times the assemblies have so long an agenda that the delegate has no opportunity to discuss his most urgent concerns. What can be done about this?

[Escalona] As comrades with the most experience in this area have told me, previously there existed a time for the presentation of the delegates' views. However, as that no longer appears on the agenda of the assemblies, the interested parties try to express their views whenever they can. If they have no opportunity to state their views in connection with a related matter, they are told that the matter can be raised at another time.

[Tesoro] It has been the custom for the past several years that at each session of the assemblies at all levels, an organism of the administration and of a territory makes a report. What do you think of that practice?

[Escalona] That is one of the formalities. We make a schedule for two and a half years, and then it is a matter of making a report for each session, for example, for communal assemblies. However, it may be that those reports are not the most pressing issues at the time.

The assembly should meet to deal with the most serious problems. How does it learn of them? Through the permanent commissions, which have the duty of bringing crisis situations to the assembly's attention.

[Tesoro] At times some matters of importance are not discussed in a timely fashion in Parliament as they are not on the agenda. How do you explain that custom, which is apparently paradoxical?

[Escalona] The National Assembly also decides in advance about the subjects it will take up, although I believe that the agenda is not an obstacle for raising certain issues. Clearly, that has some relationship with the importance of the matter, because one cannot pretend that the National Assembly would cancel discussion of an issue without prior study, if this dealt with changing the direction of a highway or building a public meeting place.

A procedure which could be used to deal with this, until more sensible solutions come up, is to substitute the report of an organism for a report on things being done in the country, such as tourism, food, and health.

Thus, people would have more complete and less fragmented information if this were limited to a single ministry. People would be able to learn of the very difficult economic conditions under which we are doing these things. I think that it would more beneficial than presenting an account of the marvelous things which a ministry has done.

Not Everything Is Black Or White

[Tesoro] Some delegates complain that the work of the permanent commissions is exhausting. Is this a generalized opinion?

[Escalona] In my experience, this is not the case. You would have to see whether the working parties are doing what they should. For if we spend our time making inquiries and doing other things of no great importance, we could spend all of our time on that. We could stop going to work and could spend many hours without doing anything important.

If that is the case, work on permanent commissions is not only exhausting, but irrational, because permanent committees are structures established to give continuity to the assembly. They are its eyes and hands making it possible to be in touch with and to see the problems.

[Tesoro] Do you think that the various organs of the people's government have been an effective means for the participation of the people in the government?

[Escalona] I think so, but we should not just take examples from the large cities, and still less from the city of Havana. However, we have visited municipalities where the activity of the executive committees can be seen and the work of the delegates, as it should be, not as a vehicle solely for receiving complaints, but above all for the mobilization of the people in search of solutions.

Among others, there are the examples of Yateras, in Guantanamo, and San Jose de las Lajas, in Habana Province. When an executive committee acts rationally and the assemblies play their role, the assemblies are turned into very effective vehicles for popular participation.

We should recall the role of these organs of government in the preparation of the country for war. They have been effective managers of this kind of responsibility. Furthermore, the elections, with 98 percent of voter participation, are an affirmative phenomenon. The people feel they are represented, although on occasions they see their aspirations frustrated by bureaucratic procedures which we have permitted. Furthermore, we could not have brought our socialism to the point where it is without the experience of these bodies.

'Ghost' Deputies

[Tesoro] The election of members to provincial assemblies and of deputies is not handled directly from the district but through a candidacy approved by an electoral commission. Is this procedure contrary to democracy?

[Escalona] You cannot say that this procedure is contrary to democracy, because we use a system of indirect elections. More than 50 percent of the delegates to provincial assemblies are from the local level, as is the case with the National Assembly.

Much has been said recently about "ghost" deputies who do not live or work in the municipality which elected them. I believe that the solution to this problem lies, among other things, in increasing the number of deputies who are from the local level. In this way people will have no doubt that their delegate is their representative at the highest level of the state, because they live alongside him and can "touch him with their hands."

[Tesoro] Some people consider that in parliamentary debate there is little confrontation of opposing views. Do you agree with this observation?

[Escalona] Some people also ask themselves why we do not argue in Cuba, as is done in a bourgeois parliament. Of course, these are two, quite different things. In a bourgeois parliament there are many political parties, and the deputies defend the interests of their parties.

That does not mean that we are satisfied. However, to have a diversity of opinions, there must be an educational process on the way in which arguments may be carried on. For many years we have not argued, either inside or outside of parliament.

[Tesoro] You are the president of the commission appointed by the party to work on perfecting the organs of people's government, among other things. Would you discuss some of the changes which will certainly take place?

[Escalona] At this point the changes are not in sight. On the basis of discussions on calling the Fourth Congress of the party and the information obtained from different assemblies, we see how opinion is developing on a series of points, many of which have been covered in this conversation, but there are many more.

The functioning of the electoral commissions remains to be discussed, particularly to see whether or not the table of age brackets makes sense, the aspects of formalism in elections, and the situation concerning the proper moment for establishing the Assembly, for the executive committee to be elected. All of that sounds like something prefabricated, and evidently it is.

For the moment we are looking for solutions to all aspects of formalism, so that, when the matter comes up in congress, we can say that when we began this process, we were at this stage. And as we go on resolving problems, we will reach conclusions making it possible for us to suggest changes with greater assurance.

Undoubtedly, it is necessary to go on trying. Remember that we have been warned by the commander in chief not to be in too much of a hurry. We have the responsibility to work hard and not make mistakes. We cannot continue to make mistakes. What we change must be for the benefit of our people. Therefore, everything must be thought out and considered as a whole. This problem cannot be resolved by one person, acting alone, who thinks that he is completely right. Fortunately, I feel free of that kind of original sin.

* Magazine Poll on People's Government

90CA0091 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6, 13 Jul 90

[Article by Caridad Carrobello, Susana Tesoro, Martha Campos, Pelayo Terry, and Ariel Terrero, with Maggie Marin and Claribel Terre]

[6 Jul pp 5-9]

[Text] There are still persons in Cuba who prefer not to question—and try to prevent others from doing so—such sensitive matters as those relating to government power. In one of the many centers where BOHEMIA conducted—or tried to conduct—this journalistic poll, the administration placed obstructions in the way and cast doubt on the political intentions behind the work. Just another one of those things.

Reactions varied in other places. Many of those polled viewed us with a look halfway between tired and skeptical—"Another poll? Is that how they are going to solve problems?"—while others, overcome with suspicion, preferred not to answer, even anonymously. (We identify only those who agreed to explain their opinions.) And yet, most filled out the form with good will, logically enough. We were merely researching one of the controversies causing the most furor today: To what extent does the People's Government satisfy—or at least take care of—all the political, economic, and social expectations and concerns of the people?

The implications of the debate are somewhat more acute than might appear. Not only is it a question of the proper or improper operation of the highest organs of government. Questioning the work of the People's Government means in fact questioning the real effectiveness of democracy in Cuba.

Alongside other cardinal considerations: free education and health care and the concept of people's defense, it is the participation of the people in affairs of state that determines the real scope of the democratic values of society. Bureaucratic trammels, tedious assemblies calling people to account, and inefficient mechanisms and structures weaken something more than this complicated chain that begins at the district level and ends with the National Assembly.

Fourteen years of experience have left a divergent, muddled trail of opinions, both pro and con, which now seem to pop up all of a sudden with the summons to the Fourth Party Congress, but which must have been lying just beneath the surface for several years.

Weakest Link

The delegate is the first and perhaps weakest link in the chain. The only representative directly elected by the people, his work will to a great extent determine the judgment which the people make of the work of the organs of government power. To put it plainly, he is the first to stick his neck out, handling the most immediate, daily problems of the community and transfers, those whose solution depends on action at higher levels (municipal, provincial, and national assemblies).

It is therefore initially surprising that a voter would not know who represents him at the grass-roots level.

Most of the 957 persons polled, 75.2 percent, said they knew the name of their delegate, but the rest, a fourth,

admitted they did not or could not recall it. Aside from failing memories, this might reflect a basic lack of interest in the work of the people's government and even a loss of faith in its management ability.

Danger of Distrust

It is questionable whether 41 percent of those polled do not trust or half trust their delegate. Among other things, they list such serious reasons as favoritism in the handling of government resources.

"Based on the way my representative acts, one might come to the conclusion that in our country, leaders have privileges for resolving their problems," thinks Cienfuegos university student Merlys Ramirez. "On my block, the sewer is clogged and causes flooding and water gets into the homes. The problem has been reported but is never resolved because, they say, the government does not have the funds. And yet, construction work on the delegate's house is moving ahead full steam and his block already has sidewalks, while ours and others do not."

In Havana, mechanical engineer Ibrahim Rodriguez says that "when elections or assemblies are close, they take hasty measures to settle problems quickly. If they have to put in a section of sidewalk, they do it. If pumps are needed, they are installed. Sometimes," he adds, "responses do not correspond to the people's requests."

Then why have they not proposed the delegate's recall? This procedure, guaranteeing democracy, is apparently little known or not known to anyone, or perhaps it is difficult to determine the suitability of or need for applying it. Whatever the case, it is a matter deserving of attention.

Government Officials or Errand Boys?

This mistrust seems to be particularly influenced by the rather widespread belief that the delegate is nothing more than an errand boy. Almost half of all those polled: 48.6 percent, believe the representative does not have sufficient authority to solve problems in his district. The lack of power to find solutions to many problems tends to break down voters' faith in their representative.

Eduardo Rene Abad, from Granma Province, argues from example:

"In the Rosa la Bayamesa district, we have had a problem with water for five years and no one has ever worried about it. Now they have promised us many things, but there are always delays. I stopped going to meetings where we called them to account as my delegate said we could not complain because the little they had achieved was done by begging for favors. I argued with him; after so much time you cannot handle problems that way. It is a social issue. He is the person who represents me and in order to comply with his obligations, he has the duty to demand, not beg, particularly when they have committed the absurdity of building a new distribution system without any water to supply!"

On the other side of the island, in a little town near the Ruben Martinez Villena mill in La Habana, engineer Teresa Reyes tells a similar story:

"At many People's Government assemblies in El Cangre, we asked for the bus to go through the town before 0700 hours in the morning so children would not be late for school and workers for work. The delegate went to the Madruga terminal and did what he could, but nothing came of it. Here the solution is not any lack of funds because we were not asking for more buses. How much authority does the delegate have?"

"The delegate has no resources or influence on any administrative change," says capital resident Juan Valdes Pena, director of the MINAZ [Ministry of Sugar Industry] Mechanical Design Enterprise. "He is a very vulnerable person. He does his work during the daytime and at night people besiege him with their problems, the solution to most of which is not in his hands. The result is burnout."

In Matanzas, Jose Rodriguez, a young Mario Munoz construction brigade worker, thinks that in his province, where the People's Government experiment began for the first time in our country, the organs of government and delegate had more authority before than they do now. "When you had a problem, they nearly always found a quick solution for it. Now, with respect to matters relating to housing, for example, there is no end to the red tape and hassle at the municipal level. Bureaucracy has a great deal to do with it."

Poll

BOHEMIA conducted a poll in nine of our country's provinces on the ticklish subject of people's government. We interviewed 857 persons from production and services, education and public health, scientists, students, military personnel, retired individuals, farmers, and intellectuals, in a word, voters.

The results were as follows:

Do you know the name of your delegate?	Percent
Yes	75.2
No	12.9
Do not remember	11.9

Do you have confidence in your delegate?	Percent
Yes	59.1
No	17.6
In between	23.3

Has your delegate demonstrated he has authority to handle the problems of your district?	Percent
Yes	51.4
No	16.5
In between	32.1

Would you agree to be a delegate from your district	Percent
Yes	31.3
No	40.8
Do not know	27.9

What is your opinion of the People's Government as a form of government	Percent
Good	40.6
Bad	3.6
Needs improvement	55.8

Do you feel you participate in the country's government?	Percent
Yes	60.7
No	13
Halfway	26.3

Percent	What would you propose to improve the People's Government?
70.5	Seeking more flexible, efficient methods of government administration without changing existing structures.
10	Replacing the existing electoral system and People's Government structures with something more efficient.
11.4	Changing both methods and structures.
7.5	Other measures

Straightjacket

Based on the general opinion of those interviewed, the material limitations of the Cuban Government have contributed to the erosion of the image of the delegate and, consequently, of the People's Government.

"Sometimes we think the organs of People's Government have declined, but I do not see it that way," says Nivaldo Ortega, president of the Antero Regalado CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative] in San Antonio de los Banos. "Years ago, they had substantial resources making it easy to undertake projects and solve the community's problems. When I was a delegate, for example, they began to electrify the Juan Manuel Marquez community, put in telephones, and improve transportation and access roads. These things would be difficult now because there are not enough funds."

The effect of such material limitations on the prestige of the People's Government also depends on the wisdom and clarity with which the representative of each district sizes up the situation, the political maturity of the voter, and the living conditions from which standpoint the latter faces the problem. Opinions are therefore divided:

"I halfway trust my delegate. She shows no interest in going to mass. CDR [Committees for Defense of the Revolution] members practically do not attend assemblies calling people to account. At the last meeting, the first thing she said was: "We are not here to ask for things, but to find solutions to problems." After that, only one proposal was made and the meeting lasted 10 minutes."

This experience of Ileana Tamayo in Granma is contrasted with that of a colleague from the same enterprise where she works, Sakenaf 2. Digna Jerez has a delegate who "is concerned and either solves or seeks a response demonstrating the reasons why something is impossible. She absolutely does not use excuses to justify negligence."

Hour of Truth

One out of every three persons polled would agree to be a delegate, unquestionably an encouraging statistic—as a breeding grounds it would be fine—when one considers the many difficulties elected officials have to face.

"I would agree to be a delegate," says Pinar del Rio resident Francisco Fuentes, head of the Electronic Components Enterprise workshop, "because the first thing a revolutionary must do is not criticize from a lofty platform, but get involved in the problem. That is what counts. One of the worst things is that when it comes right down to it, no one wants to be a delegate."

No Traps or Rigged Voting

As a form of government, the People's Government received nearly unanimous support from those polled. Only a small group of 34, 3.6 percent, said categorically it was no good. However, over half think it needs improvement, confirming that not everything is peachy keen.

Disagreement on this issue is rather balanced, with 40 percent saying that as they operate right now, government organs are useful. Such disagreement reveals that the performance of the People's Government has not been uniform everywhere.

"It is one of the most respected, most democratic things in the country. It represents the government in a specific place. Delegates and deputies obtain their posts without tricks or rigged voting. We all have the right to be elected and the opportunity to be promoted. It is our most direct way to be governed," says Guillermina Lores, who works at the Pinar del Rio Spare Parts Enterprise.

Rafael Pizarro, brigade chief of the Fregat irrigation equipment factory in Granma, thinks, on the other hand, that the People's Government is not efficiently meeting the purposes for which it was created: "There is concern among the population, not only because of problems of

shortages, but also organizational matters in the restaurants and other services. I think," he added, "that the leaders should personally frequently examine such sensitive areas for the people as the butcher shops, cafeterias, and markets."

Confidence In Spite of Everything

In proposing solutions for eliminating weak areas of People's Government, those polled made interesting suggestions. Some, because of their depth, show that this is not the first time the matter has come up. The issue obviously captures the attention of part of the population.

The vast majority, 70.5 percent, prefer more flexible, efficient methods in government administration, without touching existing structures, another sign of confidence in the Cuban Government. However, one out of every five persons polled thinks it would also be proper to introduce reforms into the current election system and the structures of People's Government.

Engineer Jose Alvarez thinks the election system should be more democratic: "not intervene in behalf of everyone and also give more options. The precandidate should have the possibility of expressing his ideas on how he intends to handle his term, that is, hold preelection meetings. Within a single party system, there are ways to improve the government.

"In the case of Pinar del Rio," he adds, "there are good experiments with radio broadcasts of the sessions of the provincial assembly, but there they challenge nothing. It is like a false unanimity. The people have to be given more power. In practice, delegates do not govern; those who do are the administrators."

The president of the FEU [Federation of University Students] at the Cienfuegos Advanced Technological Institute School of Economics thinks the People's Government should have more autonomy compared with the party. "It has to make its own decisions, but many cadres consult for the entire party."

"I have always had the opinion," says Alfredo Gonzalez from Ciudad de La Habana, "that the delegate's job should be professionalized, like that of the deputy, throughout the term, and if this is impossible, then they should be semi-professional. In the final analysis, they are working for the government."

Concerning meetings at which officials are called to account, Holguin resident Victor Perez proposes they be held more frequently, "let us say every three months, because responses take a long time and when they finally give you your answer, very often you are no longer even interested. More than a response, what one wants is a solution, but we know some things are impossible."

Over Half Want Improvements in People's Government

Democracy Must Be Improved

The people's participation in affairs of state is far from meeting aspirations, based on what those polled told us. Two out of every five persons feel they are not fully involved in the government of the country, basically because of inefficiencies in the administration of the People's Government. The participation of many is even through the action of the mass and political organizations created and promoted by the revolution rather than through the institutional system of elections and assemblies at which accounts are rendered. Workers, students, and intellectuals commented on this point. The opinion of Graziella Pogolotti, from the vice presidency of UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists], sums up these points:

"I feel I am a more integral part of the government of the country through UNEAC than through the People's Government because, as a result of my specific work, I have an all-embracing view of the problems of society which relate to culture, which I cannot achieve as a mere voter in my district. In order for someone to feel a real part of the country's government, he must be involved in all the machinery, ranging from the grassroots to the National Assembly.

"Excluding high officials who enjoy that status, here in Ciudad de La Habana, one does not know who the deputy from his municipality is, which should be a channel for exercising citizens' concerns to the National Assembly. In addition, deputies study problems of the province and the nation, but since such work is not widely published, one never knows whether the issues of concern to the community are being taken care of."

Opinions come and opinions go, but it is not too risky to draw a conclusion from so many points of agreement and disagreement: The time has come to improve the people's government, in other words, to perfect our democracy.

[13 Jul pp 4, 6-9]

With all due respect to the Christians, not even God's power is unlimited. His dominion ends where those of Allah begin, for the Muslims, or those of Obatala for the Santeros, and stop short of the unbelieving conscience of the atheists. In less spiritual areas as well, men have also taken it upon themselves to draw a line on the power of men. Whether in monarchic societies or bourgeois democracies, the government has had as its borders at least those of the nation or the empire.

In Cuba, the People's Government, the highest expression of socialist democracy developed by the revolution, also has limits: those of efficiency.

When a meeting held for the purpose of calling people to account falls victim to red tape, or when the action of a

delegate runs up against bureaucratic barriers erected by the administration of an enterprise, the people's power is weakened.

In a survey recently conducted by BOHEMIA and published in our previous issue, half of the nearly 1,000 persons polled said delegates lack authority, while two out of every five said they did not feel well represented by the organs of government. This is what the voters said. As we shall see today, elected officials do not think very differently, although they view the situation from a more committed position. Elementary, right?

Dilemma of Governing

Concerning the controversial authority of the delegate, there is a frank diversity of opinions between the 11 delegates and deputies interviewed by the periodical in the country's five provinces. In the opinion of Luis Colas, from the municipality of Baguano in Holguin, who does not think it is actually the People's Government that governs, but rather, the administrations of enterprises and organizations ("When the delegate goes to an industry for an answer, they look at him like someone asking a favor."), even as far down as positions such as those of Ismael Guevara.

This deputy from Bayamo thinks the People's Government enjoys respect and prestige. "The delegate does have authority, but it depends a great deal on his level of administration as a representative of the people in the municipal and provincial government. The People's Government has shown evidence it can solve many problems."

"We delegates participate in the government of the country," thinks Alfredo Reyes Acosta, president of the Municipal Assembly in San Miguel del Padron in the capital, "but we must still gain greater influence in decisions affecting every territory."

Among the reasons limiting the delegate's authority in practice is the fact that sometimes he does not have the organs of the People's Government to adopt local solutions. Even the Executive Committee itself, subordinate to the assemblies of delegates, "does not always take their opinions into account when making decisions in the territory they represent," says Sixto Juan Arrechea, vice president in the municipality of Pilon in Granma.

"At the same time, the municipal Executive Committee lacks sufficient authority over local decisions," Sixto continues. "I think institutions, enterprises, and establishments in the territory should be under the municipal organs of the People's Government to some extent. On many occasions, the local government is powerless when dealing with any problem directly related to enterprises subordinate to the nation or province and cannot take even the simplest measure. This limits our hierarchy and work. In these cases, the party intervenes in a double political and administrative function. There are experiments in some municipalities, such as Yateras, where more authority has been given to the local government over enterprises in its territory, for example, transportation, food, and so on. I think this is a magnificent example."

Several persons interviewed agreed on this point. "The term 'help' in Article 112 of the constitution relating to entities subordinate to the municipality is very ambiguous," says Alfredo Reyes of San Miguel del Padron. "It must be better defined. In this field, we are only moving forward on the personal relations established by members of the Executive Committee with the administration of these enterprises."

Concerning the controversy over the centralization-decentralization of the economy, Denio Camacho, delegate and legal adviser in auxiliary offices of the National Assembly, thinks "the province is where construction materials should be centralized, for example, but when it decides to make repairs, it must have the opinion of the municipal assembly in order to determine which buildings are in most urgent need."

Doubts at the Crossroads

If one thing is obvious, it is the fact that between the representatives of the People's Government, it is not very clear what the duties or powers of a delegate are. Whether to govern or go through the procedures is the dilemma.

"Sometimes the delegate himself cannot find out how to make his work more efficient," says Humberto Rodriguez Gonzalez, president of the Santa Clara Municipal Assembly. "He solves most problems by looking for materials themselves. We even see them make administrative decisions and the delegate is not to be an administrator. The delegate is a representative of the government, the vehicle of government policy."

And yet, under existing circumstances, the delegate apparently has no other alternative.

Melba Aldama Baro, deputy from Matanzas, thinks the regulations on municipal assemblies do not leave much authority to the grass-roots representatives. "Sometimes one has to transcend such regulations in order to handle matters and require that decisions be taken which, based on what is stipulated, are not the delegate's functions. Otherwise, we could not carry out all the tasks entrusted to us by the voters."

Capital resident Denio Camacho has a very different view of the matter. She thinks the delegate must be given more powers in order to solve problems. "It is in the administrative routine that prestige has been lost."

"I have the impression," he says, "that the very essence of the conception of the delegate has been adulterated. He is the representative of the people, the person who passes on to the government the problems of the community and demands they be solved, but in practice the delegate has become the person who handles these things, forgetting he is not a career person. His duty was

never to administer. The government must require this of the administrative apparatus.

"In becoming a problem solver," he adds, "the delegate has often been used by the administrations as an instrument to justify unjustifiable things to the people he represents. When the delegate does not obtain a suitable response, he has the duty not to accept it."

One explanation of this alleged distortion of the conception of the delegate could be found in the words of Marina Ferguson Tamayo, deputy for the municipalityh of Pilon, although she definitely does not substantially agree with Camacho.

After noting the People's Government does have to grant its delegates more authority, she said, "We would make much more progress if we prepared them better in all aspects relating to the government they are to practice. Some of those elected do not even thoroughly understand what they represent and how to perform that duty efficiently. The orientation seminar they take is really rather spotty."

According to Marina, poor preparation is widespread throughout Parliament.

Tight Belt and Loose Bureaucracy

One origin of doubts about how organs of government perform could also be found in the material limitations confronting the country. It is generally accepted that the image of the People's Government is deteriorating due to its inability to provide a solution for all the needs of the population.

"The delegate's prestige is affected by the lack of the resources needed to meet the demands of the people, particularly with respect to housing," says Sixto Juan Arrechea, who adds: "The limitations are undeniable, but sometimes the administration is not done right and sometimes not at all."

Melba Aldama says, "The worst thing is when I tell the voter: 'This cannot be solved because a certain material is missing,' and that person responds: 'Well, maybe not for me, but there was for such-and-such a person because they built a house, repaired it, and so on.' That is the weakest point, not the lack of resources, but their improper allocation."

Another one of the problems most often criticized by the voters, the bureaucracy, is accepted by those interviewed as one of the deficiencies of the organs of government.

"They require an overwhelming amount of paperwork reflecting the weekly and monthly messages and informal meetings of the delegate with the people for presentation to the municipality, but the most noteworthy thing about it is that you do not see any solution for all you have written. This procedure of the models is bureaucratic and capricious because, if the delegate does not get directly and completely involved in each case, the Executive Committee does not always do its best to resolve the matter."

Deputy Marina Ferguson's opinion is backed by Sixto: "The unnecessary paperwork is a burden to the population as well. For everything you have to fill out one or more forms: to apply for a loan, move or buy a television set. It is all a hassle."

Boring Democracy

Meetings at which individuals are called to account depend a great deal on the skill of the delegate in conducting them and the results of his action. And yet, Denio Camacho says they are a matter of form: "The people go because they have to, not out of interest."

"What does the voter know about how the problems of his district are viewed in municipal plans?" he asks. "You can tell him how much money is programmed to solve the housing problem in the municipality, but that tells him very little if you do not explain the concrete benefit the district will receive from the program. In order to get the community involved in government decisions, if there is so much money to fix a public building in the area, it should be the voters who decide which one to repair and which one to paint. The neighborhood meeting must become a forum motivating the active participation of everyone."

This would make our system more democratic, but the discussion should not be limited to aspects of local interest. The first platform for questioning the inadequacies of the People's Government or deliberating other matters of national policy should be these meetings, which in general have turned their backs on such issues.

Election Campaigns?

Concerning the elections, there was a consensus that the machinery for election promotion must be improved because the most capable people are not always elected. "Here we need the most efficient person, the individual who, in addition to his good intentions, determination, and political support, has the real, objective possibility of leading the economic and social development of his community and therefore, the country," thinks the young municipal president of Santa Clara. "A biography does not tell you everything, whatever the merits of the candidate."

Another controversial point was the makeup of executive committees. While some argue for continuing to choose between delegates in order to maintain the link with the grass roots, others propose that members be appointed by the municipal assembly and not necessarily between those elected, so as to seek persons perfectly suited for the duties of government. Delegates do not always have all the qualifications for handling an economic or cultural issue, for example. In addition, it would enable assemblies of delegates to truly function as

a counterpart to the executive Committee, which in practice tends to side with administrations rather than solve the voter's complaint.

The point on which there is no disagreement is the need to strengthen the government at the grass-roots level, in other words, giving more power to the people. [Box pp 8-9]

Motivating Cuban Parliament

Is it anonymous or nil? Either one might be suggested by the apparent silence surrounding the work of deputies. Comfortably installed in the Convention Palace, members of the National Assembly meet two or more times a year to debate and decide the country's policy, but speeches predominately come from government officials and leaders.

If there is controversy, little gets beyond the sessions of the highest organ of government. Passivity seems to predominate in the chambers. "Actually, National Assembly sessions do not give the precise measure of the deputies' work," explains Deputy Irma Barreras to BOHEMIA. "We always have the most serious discussions in the working committees, which study problems detected, request meetings with and clarifications from ministers and other officials, and work to get measures taken.

The representative from the municipal capital of Boyeros agrees that "no one usually knows about this work and since, in the Assembly, either the reports are approved or not approved and since voting is by opinion, people observe a certain coldness in the handling of their problems."

"What is true of the delegate is also true of the deputy: As long as they do not see results, people have no confidence."

However, the work of the standing committees does not seem to be the best either. "These are important auxiliary organs when used properly," says the president of the People's Government in Santa Clara, Humberto Rodriguez Gonzalez, "but they often get no further than the mere administrative procedure of reviewing the report of a minister or enterprise director in order to write a similar opinion word for word in the report. Then the People's Government assemblies do not play a real counterpart role." Humberto thinks it is necessary to pay more heed to people's opinions and not be confined to documents.

In addition to proposing broader dissemination of the National Assembly sessions, several persons interviewed suggested that in order to have closer ties between the people and the highest organ of government, it would be useful to increase the number of elected deputies among delegates. "I think a delegate has more grounds from which to defend the people's rights," says Matanzas Deputy Melba Aldama, "because he knows them firsthand and feels as affected by the problems as does any voter."

Denio Camacho, who combines his work as a legal adviser in the offices of Parliament with those of delegate, thinks it would be ideal to elect deputies directly by the rank and file and not indirectly, as is done now, in order to achieve that closer link. He also proposes the inclusion of candidacies for mass organizations.

It is a fact that today "the majority of the population does not know who are the deputies from their municipalities to the National Assembly," Marina Ferguson says.

The deputy from Pilon in Granma also thinks they should be better prepared for parliamentary debate "because sometimes out of a lack of knowledge, particularly in discussing laws, we are often limited in expression opinions and it is nearly always the experts who speak."

Luis Colas, deputy from Baguano, Holguin, thinks the situation is gloomier. "The National Assembly is monotonous. There are practically never objections and practically never anyone against. There is enormous conformity. Deputies are aware that these things are bad but do not say so out of fear. Democracy is not truly exercised. It is not a matter of asking for more freedom, but more political courage. I have said this from the municipal assembly to the national."

Irma Barreras agrees to a certain extent with Colas:

"I think we vote as a matter of form, mechanically, to approve documents such as the government budget, for example. This is dangerous. Experts have recently begun to meet with working groups to explain all the details, including those from the budget, which helps us form an opinion. But we still tend to approve documents without debate, perhaps because of confidence in the specialized committees."

"We must change the tone of debate in the Assembly," she adds. "Having ideological unanimity does not exclude controversy, debating, and going more deeply into issues of concern to the people. I even think we should take up hot issues at a more opportune moment, those that affect the people daily. There is an urgent need to promote debate in Cuban Parliament."

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Jamaican Commission Arrives in Dominican Republic

FL3008181090 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] An official Jamaican commission trying to improve relations within the [word indistinct] agreement for the Caribbean nations has arrived in the country for a two-day visit. During their stay in the Dominican Republic, Jamaican Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. (Byron Blake), also a top executive of the Caribbean Common Market, Caricom, and Mr. (J. Fry) will hold

meetings with the public and private sectors. A meeting with Dominican business executives has been arranged for today at 1700 hours at the offices of the Association of Industries, according to (Luis Galaf), executive director in charge of the industrial liaison project.

Dominica

Prime Minister Analyzes 'Near Defeat' in May

FL3008170090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 30, CANA—Prime Minister Eugenia Charles on Thursday linked her government's narrow victory in the May 28 general elections to Dominicans' "rising expectations".

Miss Charles, whose party won 11 of the 21 seats at stake, told participants in a national consultation that the failure to get a big majority could not be attributed to any lack of performance. "The governments of the region have to face many challenges, not the least of which is the challenge of their own success," she asserted. "The success of many governments in managing the economies of their own territories has led to a vast improvement in the quality of life of their people, which in turn has led to rising expectations."

She suggested that it was that expectation which led to her near defeat at the polls, adding that the speedier the improvements brought on by the government in power, the higher the expectation. "Rising expectations require a redoubling of our efforts and a constant search to find new and better ways to do things to satisfy the higher aspirations of our people. We've seen this right here in Dominica, where the success of the government has almost led to its failure," Miss Charles remarked.

The prime minister noted that from humble beginnings ten years ago, Dominicans could boast that they had come a long way. "Dominicans now rank high in terms of human development in the region, only surpassed by Barbados, according to a recent United Nations assessment," she said.

Haiti

AC Says Government 'Illegitimate and Illegal'

FL3108132490 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The political situation took a turn for the worse after the recent speech by President Ertha Pascal Trouillot. All the political parties have adopted unreconcilable positions. The Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] is very divided, with seven of the political parties now more determined than ever to find a new alternative to Mrs. Trouillot.

At noon today, in a communique published in Port-au-Prince, the AC severely criticized the recent speech by President Ertha Pascal Trouillot. Seven AC parties are asking the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] to temporarily postpone electoral activities while waiting for a new transitional government to take power. We are now going to listen to the communique from the AC, read by Jean Claude Roy of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists [UCH], also a member of the AC.

[Begin Roy recording] The AC is protesting the arrogant and unworthy remarks made by the chief of state, Mrs. Trouillot during the installation of her ministerial cabinet on August 27. The AC takes note that the remarks by Mrs. Trouillot regarding elections under any conditions, her government and its mission, as well as the relative importance of the political groups on the national scene, conform exactly with the position of AC dissident groups. The AC also notes that this transitional government, already rendered ineffective by its own frivolousness and immorality, is now displaying bias that negates the its required nuetrality. It has now become illegitimate and illegal.

We, members of the AC, declare that such an executive, as its recent biased declarations prove, will do everything in its power to fix the elections. Therefore, we demand that the CEP draw the appropriate conclusions and stop temporarily registration activities, pending a solution to the political crisis that the country is experiencing.

Port-au-Prince, August 28, 1990. The signatures of eight political parties follow: UCH, Unified Party of Haitian Communists, Social Christian People's Party of Haiti, National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti, National Agricultural and Industrial Party, Movement for the Organization of the Country, National Congress of Democratic Movements, and the National People's Party of Haiti. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

State Council Chief Roy Criticizes Government

FL3008164590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Things are not going well between the Council of State and the executive. The State Council has a historic role to play and will carry through its mission to the end. That is the position of the State Council, which remains convinced that, all is not lost at this point. Mrs. Trouillot can still satisfy a minimum of the population's demands. The signs of the end of a regime are, however, cropping up everywhere, noted State Council President Dr. Louis E. Roy, who was interviewed by our reporter Nancy Roc.

[Begin recording] [Roc] [passage omitted] Dr. Roy denounced management problems at all levels in the ministeries. He stressed, however, that the most serious difficulties still lie within the Finance Ministry. In view of obvious corruption, the State Council, striving for openess, wanted to look into the dossiers, but was refused access on the pretext that the said dossiers were the business of the General Tax Directorate [DGI] alone.

This is just one of a number of examples that today lead the Council's president to note, bitterly, the following:

[Roy] We wanted transparency. When Mrs. Trouillot took over the government—when she was sworn in—she said in her first statement that she was going to respond to the popular demands; that she was going to reestablish security, justice; that she was going to make sober cuts in the government expenses and in the phenomenal salaries of certain civil servants. None of this has been done. If she had done even a minimum. Nobody is asking her to change absolutely everything in the public administration, rotted over the past 30 years. She, however, is being asked to at least make some kind of effort. We have not been able to obtain this effort. That is why the State Council found itself, at a certain point, with its back against the wall and forced to say: No, that is enough.

[Roc] Does the State Council hold Mrs. Trouillot personally responsible for Haiti's budget deficit?

[Roy] No, she is not personally responsible, but she is responsible for the slackness during her government. No one, absolutely no one at all in her government, has ever been sanctioned for anything illegal done at the level of the public finances.

[Roc] She is thus an accomplice.

[Roy] We chose to stop being accomplices because one might have accused us of being accomplices.

[Roc] Do you think the current juncture is a precursory sign of the end of a regime?

[Roy] Yes, I do. I think all the symptoms are there, beginning with the [words indistinct] public popular protest [words indistinct], public protest that is not being sought. All the support I hear the State Council getting from newspapers, over the radio, over radio talk shows, are not things asked for by the State Council. I think that it is the population, which, aware that its envoys in the government have failed, have been fooled, and perhaps bear a certain amount of responsibility.... [changes thought] Because none of us wishes to deny our portion of responsibility in the matter. We should perhaps have decided on this veto three months ago. [passage omitted]

The current division [among the political class] was expected. Division existed already from the time a member of the Court of Cassation was chosen. A compromise was reached, in order to arrive at that choice. [passage omitted]

There is, thus, that group, which insists on holding elections at any price and under any conditions whatsoever. And among its ranks are certain embassies. [words indistinct]

We are convinced if minimum conditions are not met by the provisional government, there will be no elections, or there will be elections like the ones that brought Manigat to power. We do not want that for Haiti or for the Haitian people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Dr. Roy added that if the minimum asked for by the Haitian people were to be, if not resolved, at least initiated, there is still time for Mrs. Trouillot to restore confidence to the population. Then the elections could be realized before 7 February 1991.

Regarding the Regala/Lafontant/Serge Villard business, Mrs. Trouillot has not followed up. How can this indifference be explained?

It is not indifference, but a feeling of impotence, says Louis Roy. Roy stresses that this matter is one of the demands to which the population wants an immediate response. The Haitian judiciary can be set in motion by a serious measure of a (?selfless) judge. [passage omitted]

In any case, as far as the State Council is concerned, Roy declared, it is out of the question for its members to replace the executive branch of the government. [passage omitted]

FNCD Postpones Convention To Work on Campaign

FL3108133390 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In a note sent to us, the Coordination Committee of the National Front for Democracy and Change [FNCD] informs its members and sympathizers in the capital as well as in the provinces that the political convention has been postponed. It was to take place on September 2, 1990 to name the Front's candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

This decision will give all front members an opportunity to begin their preparations for the campaign they are going to launch very soon. The campaign is part of the peaceful struggle to end to Ertha Pascal Trouillot's government and its policies, which have served as a barrier to democratic elections in the country.

At a politically appropriate time the FNCD Coordination Committee will send invitations for convention.

Victor Benoit, Turneb Delpe and Evans Paul signed this note for the FNCD Coordination Committee.

CEP Chief Denies Endorsing Army Aid Request

FL3008160690 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] In a clarifying note, Jean-Robert Sabalat, president of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], says that several radio stations have reported that he allegedly endorsed, as CEP president, a request for assistance which the Haitian Government made to the US Government. This information is not true. He categorically denies these reports and denounces this as an obvious maneuver, whatever its source, to make the CEP endorse—or perhaps approve would be more accurate—a request for $1.2 million for the Haitian Armed Forces.

The same note goes on to say the CEP has never heard of such a request from the Haitian Government. So, it was not informed.

The CEP takes advantage of this occasion to remind the persons concerned that it supported a request by the Haitian Government to the UN secretary general to send an observer mission to ensure openness in the Haitian electoral process. The request included technical assistance for the Haitian Army and the sending of a military observers mission. The requests made at the United Nations were not approved by the Security Council because no consensus was reached on the military point.

This is an explanatory note from CEP President Jean-Robert Sabalat.

St. Lucia

Compton Optimistic About CET Implementation

FL3008174090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Aug 30, CANA—St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton doesn't expect major price increases to follow when the island joins Caribbean Community member countries in introducing a Common External Tariff (CET) by January 1, 1991. Compton said that the government had already taken steps towards softening the impact of the CET on consumers here with the result that there will be very few price increases.

"In some cases there have been increases but these have been relatively small.... But by and large the effects would be relatively small, at least for St. Lucia," Compton said.

The Caricom governments have agreed on the need to implement the CET on extra-regional goods in phases as they work towards the establishment of a single regional market by 1993. The CET is to be charged on goods produced outside the area in a bid to protect regional industries. Compton said that the CET was probably the most important decision taken at the Caricom summit in Jamaica last July/August.

"This was an important step which we have been trying to achieve for some years," he remarked.

Compton said that the CET could help the region cope with the emerging trade blocs in Europe.

"But to achieve this will take some sacrifice on the part of the people and I hope they understand that we are looking at this for the long term," he said.

"There might be short term adjustments and sacrifices demanded and Caribbean people must be prepared to bear them if the region is to adjust itself economically to meet the challenges of the outside world."

Trinidad and Tobago

Economy Shows Positive Indications of Growth

FL3008181390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Aug 30, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago economy showed positive signs of growth during the first six months of the year, a Central Bank review of the economy said.

"The first six months of 1990 provided further evidence that the decline in the economy was being arrested. Provisional estimates suggest that real value added declined by 0.5 per cent, thereby confirming the trend towards the levelling off the decline in output in the economy," the review said.

In the first half of 1988 and 1989, real GDP [Gross Domestic Product] recorded declines of 4.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively. The bank said the second quarter was "encouraging as economic activity expanded by 1.5 per cent following marginal decline in the previous quarter."

The Central Bank found the improved performance "unusual" since, "this expansion was led by the non-petroleum sector, in the face of the continuing weakness of the traditonally dominant petroleum sector."

The change in the taxation base from direct to indirect taxation led to a surplus of TT 52.5 million dollars (one TT dolar = 23.5 U.S. cents) for the first half of the year. The bank said revenue growth was strong enough to outweigh increases in expenditure which occured as a result of higher government transfers and subsidies.

Pemex Announces Higher Prices for Export Oil

PA3008154990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2359 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] today announced an adjustment in the prices of its crude oil exports, to enter into effect on 1 September. The increases in the price of oil per barrel sold to the Western Hemisphere will be as follows: $0.75 for Istmo oil, $1.25 for Maya oil, and $0.30 for Olmeca oil. In addition, the prices for a barrel of crude sold to European customers will go up $0.90 for Istmo oil and $1.50 for Maya oil.

Pemex explained that the adjustment is to bring the prices of Mexican export oil in line with the benchmark prices on the international market. Pemex added that between July and August the prices of Mexican export oil rose an average of $9 per barrel, depending on quality and destination.

The increases are caused by the shifts of the benchmark price registered on the international oil market in the wake of the conflict raging in the Persian Gulf. Based on a preliminary report, Pemex indicated that in July the average prices for a barrel of crude sold in the Western Hemisphere were $17.18 for Olmeca oil, $15.68 for Istmo oil, and $11.81 for Maya oil.

In the first 27 days of August, extralight crude was sold at $27.05, light crude at $25.47, and heavy crude at $20.05 per barrel.

In August in the European market a barrel of Istmo oil and Maya oil was sold for $15.30 and $10.26, respectively.

Until 27 August, a barrel of light Istmo oil was sold for $24.99, and heavy Maya oil went for $18.67.

Iraqi Envoy Says Citizens 'Free To Leave'

PA3008161390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0143 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—An Iraqi diplomat said today that Mexicans living in Iraq and Kuwait remain under the protection of the Saddam Husayn government and their lives are not in danger.

Sabbar al-Hadithi, counselor at the Iraqi Embassy in Mexico, said the Mexicans living in those countries are free to leave when they wish, although he clarified that all the foreigners who work there have a contract and "we prefer that they fulfill their obligations."

He said the Iraqi mission asked the Foreign Secretariat for the addresses of the Mexicans from Monterrey so that it can notify their relatives that they are fine and under the protection of President Saddam Husayn.

He added that the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has yet to provide the requested information.

The Iraqi diplomat said he is unaware of the Mexican Government's efforts to dispatch a plane to enter the conflict zone and bring out the Mexicans who so request it.

The Iraqi Embassy official also complained that reports from the media at "the service of imperialism," which distort reality, are the only ones circulating in Mexico.

"Our country is the victim of U.S., British, and Israeli aggression. These are countries which do not accept that we have progressed technologically and militarily since our victory and the recovery of part of our territory in Iran," al-Hadithi said.

The diplomat rejected the idea that his country might be left isolated in the wake of the UN Security Council resolutions, stating that "Iraq and President Saddam Husayn are supported by 200 million Arabs and one billion Muslims."

He said the resolution of the Persian Gulf conflict is the sole concern of the 21 Arab countries, because "we have not attacked the United States or England."

Sabbar al-Hadithi said Iraq maintains "cordial" relations with almost all the countries of the world. He added that President Saddam Husayn "wants to further develop the already existing traditional ties with Mexico."

Two Cuban Fishermen Seek Political Asylum

PA3108022890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2015 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Merida, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Port captain authorities in Progreso have reported that today two Cuban fishermen have asked the Mexican Government for political asylum.

The authorities said that the Cuban fishermen arrived in the tourist area of Yucalpeten on 27 August in a launch that was originally part of ship "Lambda 316."

According to reports, Cubans Francisco Rodriguez Acosta and Leonardo Celorio Betancourt, 29 and 24 respectively, were almost 65 km from that port when they decided to desert their country and seek refuge in Mexico. Meanwhile, the whereabouts of another Cuban, "Armando," are still unknown.

Authorities believe that "Armando," who suffers from epilepsy, deserted his country and fled to the United States from Belize.

Government Denies Asylum Request

PA3108040890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0001 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Merida, Mexico, 30 Aug (AFP)—The Mexican Government has turned down the asylum request filed by two Cuban fishermen who landed Tuesday on the

Mexican peninsula of Yucatan, the Mexican Government Secretariat reported in Mexico City.

Raul Casares, immigration department director, said that his country refused to honor the request because the two Cubans "are not subject to political persecution, as they had stated."

Francisco Rodriguez Acosta, 29, and Leonardo Celorio Betancourt, 24, arrived at the port of Yucaltepen on the north coast of Yucatan, approximately 2000 km southeast of Mexico City.

Rodriguez and Celorio decided to abandon their jobs and Cuba and request political asylum in Mexico when they were 60 km from the Yucatan coast aboard the fishing boat "Lamba 210."

The two fishermen, who used a small boat to get to Mexico, requested political asylum as soon as they landed.

The pair, detained at the Puerto Progreso prison, will be repatriated Friday, Casares said.

El Salvador

Deputy Minister on Talks, FMLN, U.S. Aid

PA3008225990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Orlando Zepeda said today that neither the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] nor the government can remove itself from the negotiations because it would be very costly on the international level. He pointed out that the Armed Forces are prepared to face any situation given the insistent rumors about a new insurgent military offensive.

As for the possible reduction of U.S. economic-military aid for El Salvador, the deputy defense minister said that in 10 years of war the United States has made economic and military efforts to counter the armed conflict. He underscored that in view of a possible cut in economic aid the government must seek other possible options.

[Begin Zepeda recording] We must remember that the United States has been our main ally over the past 10 years. That country has made economic and military efforts to counter this conflict.

Every time there is a discussion of [changes thought] the same thing happens every year. There are always debates and discussions. These debates and discussions do have an effect on the morale of the Armed Forces. If the aid comes, we will welcome it; if it is reduced or conditioned, will have to adapt to the conditions required of us. If aid is suspended, we would have to seek other options and we are doing that.

We believe that the United States has many more needs and interests in other countries and areas. Perhaps the Salvadoran problem is now secondary and the East-West confrontation, at least in appearance, no longer exists. Apparently, for the United States, that confrontation is no longer a problem, and El Salvador is only a small thorn in its side that cannot be removed.

My personal opinion is that there will be cuts, and we will have to make adjustments. [end recording]

Concerning weapon supplies for the FMLN, the military chief said that they continue to arrive from abroad and that the country will continue investigating and gathering information concerning incursions by Honduran troops. Col. Zepeda also accused Nicaragua of maintaining the FMLN's apparatus.

[Begin Zepeda recording] It must be understood that the FMLN has continued receiving logistical support, indeed its entire support apparatus, from Nicaragua. There are no obvious indications that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] truly wants to help El Salvador prevent the FMLN from destroying the [word indistinct], especially our economy.

It must be understood that the FMLN is highly politicized, and that just because it signed an agreement three months ago does not mean that its entire system will be changed with the stroke of a pen. I do not think that we should fear the FMLN, and we must always expect it to have weapons and ammunition. However, the FMLN is determined to make its revolutionary position prevail in order to change systems and structures, especially those of governments like ours. [end recording]

Concerning the changes within the Armed Forces, which will be announced within the next few hours, the military chief said he was not authorized to disclose them because they have been discussed by the Army's Joint Chiefs of Staff and President Alfredo Cristiani in his capacity of general commander of the Armed Forces.

The deputy defense minister also denied reports concerning the possibility of a civilian heading the Defense Ministry because of the violence prevailing in El Salvador and because the situation calls for military personnel.

Government on Intent To Continue Peace Efforts

PA3008181390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] This afternoon the government reiterated its determination to continue searching for a global and definitive solution to the armed conflict in El Salvador through the process of dialogue.

In a communique, the government pointed out that, despite the provocations by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and its front organizations, it will continue to make every effort to achieve the peace we Salvadorans long for so much. At the same time, it made an appeal to the people to remain attentive to the negotiation. The government also asked Salvadorans to maintain a positive and optimistic attitude toward the dialogue, despite the disinformation campaign by the FMLN and its accomplices.

The government pointed out in the communique that the FMLN is following the strategy of entangling the dialogue because it is forced to do so by the conflicts that are arising among its cadres. In this regard, it told the organizations linked to the FMLN that, far from trying to confuse the population, they should demand from the guerrillas that they faithfully comply with the agreement or human rights signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, in July and stop pressuring the population.

Guatemala

URNG Issues Bulletin Summing Up Operations

PA3108041090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1631 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—A rebel war bulletin reported today that the Guatemalan

National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has inflicted 1,633 casualties on the Army so far in 1990.

The guerrillas also reported that from January to August, they damaged 18 helicopters, destroyed seven military vehicles, three armored vehicles, and one military boat. The bulletin did not report on rebel casualties for this period of time. According to the URNG, in August alone it inflicted 110 casualties on the Army during 111 military operations, damaged the helicopters, and destroyed two trucks.

The URNG distributed this information shortly before its meeting—in an effort to put an end to a 30-year armed conflict—with the leaders of the private sector to be held on 31 August in Ottawa, Canada.

The meeting is within the framework of the talks being carried out between the guerrillas and the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) with several sectors of the nation, before direct negotiations with the Army and the government.

* Hunger, Poverty Reported To Be Increasing

* Poor Economy Causes Malnutrition

90CA0099 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 16 Jul 90 p 7

[Text] The Education Workers Union (STEG) announced that, owing to its levels of poverty and malnutrition, Guatemala entered a state of extreme hunger as of July, although government authorities in the health area have not dared come to grips with the problem.

According to the teachers' union, the alarming level of malnutrition afflicting the child population in particular is due, among other things, to the high cost of staple consumer products such as milk, eggs, meat, sugar, and beans, as well as others, and also to the extreme poverty in which Guatemalans have become submerged.

According to STEG, the extreme hunger besetting the country has been caused basically by the economic deterioration confronting Guatemala since the implementation of political measures and demands made by the international financing agencies. This has been brought about mainly by pressure from the International Monetary Fund, as well as the activity of speculators and hoarders.

Through an explanation given recently in the National Commission for Reconciliation, by the National Dialogue Health Commission, alarming, tragic data were reported on the current state of poverty, extreme poverty, and malnutrition. As the STEG leaders point out, based on these data Guatemala will have to declare a state of extreme hunger starting in July. The rise in prices of staple consumer products has contributed to a worsening of living and nutrition conditions among the poor, and a heightening of the levels of extreme poverty. STEG claims that the detrimental consequence of this has been an irrepressible process of malnutrition, primarily among the child population.

In view of this situation, teachers demand the implementation of effective measures to check this situation, with an improvement in living conditions and a curbing of the constant price hikes for staple consumer products.

Finally, STEG also condemns the atmosphere of violence that the country is undergoing, affecting mainly the organized sectors. They cite specifically the kidnapping of Pedro Tiu Cac, leader of CERJ [expansion unknown], in the locality of Chiajob, Racana Canton, in Santa Maria Chiquimula, Totonicapan.

* Shanty Town Destroyed in Zone 3

90CA0099 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Jul 90 p 8

[Text] About 0730 hours yesterday the anti-riot platoon showed up at the Zone 3 dump to evict some 500 familes who, last Tuesday, had invaded numerous landfill areas along the edges of that site.

According to this information, the National Police anti-riot platoon arrived accompanied by the Municipal Police commander. They informed the invaders that they had half an hour to vacate the site and, if they did not leave, their nylon and cardboard shanties would be destroyed by force.

A few minutes later the police started destroying the shanties of the invaders, who had been surviving in that location, collecting cardboard, nylon, plastic, scrap metal, and other items.

Over 600 children, many of them still nursing, as well as about 75 dogs and hundreds of adults, were left in the streets again, owing to the destruction of the shanties that had been housing them.

The invaders protested the measure adopted by the community to evacuate that land, which in several cases prompted the use of force to evict them.

This brought about some confrontations between the residents and the police. One woman, identified as Maria Teresa Cortez, mother of several children, suffered a heart attack, and hence was immediately taken by the municipal firefighters to the Roosevelt Hospital.

Several shanties were burned and, according to the residents, this was part of the action taken by the anti-riot forces sent by the Municipal Police commander.

About 0900 hours the assistant human rights attorney, Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz appeared. He had been called upon to intervene on behalf of the invaders, because police brutality was charged in the eviction.

When all the shanties had been destroyed municipal workers arrived on a truck to collect the cardboard, nylon, and poles that the invaders had used for construction.

The evicted families claimed that they had decided to go and live in that "foul" place because they no longer had funds to pay rent for a dwelling to house their children, nor funds for purchasing furniture, stoves, and other household goods.

Yesterday the evicted individuals were viewing their already poverty-stricken future with uncertainty. Despite the eviction, they claimed that they would not move from there, because they have no other worse place to go. Therefore, even yesterday they were hunting for nylon and cardboard with which to shelter themselves from the cold and rain on that very same site.

Honduras

Arms Shipment for Salvadoran Rebels Stopped

PA3008191990 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1910 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Report by Rolando Sarmiento]

[Text] We have been informed that a vehicle carrying weapons and documents for the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, was confiscated at the customs border post in La Fraternidad, El Espino sector, San Marcos de Colon, at the Nicaraguan border.

A French citizen who was driving the car from Nicaragua is implicated in the case.

According to preliminary reports to be confirmed this afternoon or tomorrow by the Honduran Armed Forces through its Public Relations Directorate, or by the brigade or the Public Security Force operating in the southern region, the vehicle is a white 1985 Volkswagen minibus with Belgian license plate No. EZI-177 and was equipped to transport four or five people on a long trip. It had a double floor and a hidden compartment in the back seat and near the engine, which contained a large amount of documents, 81-mm mortars with detonators and booster charges, and a large amount of bags with powerful mortar propelling charges. It also had pamphlets, false identification documents, and ink to falsify documents such as cedulas, social security cards, and passports, as well as booklets for communications training, maps, and blueprints of garrisons of the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

We have learned that the vehicle, which came from Nicaragua, was recently stopped by Honduran customs authorities in La Fraternidad, at El Espino border post, San Marcos de Colon jurisdiction, Choluteca Department. Based on the documents, everything that was found was destined for the FMLN.

According to reports, the driver, who owns the vehicle, was alone. She was identified by her travel documents, passport, and driver's licence as Eve Florence de Massiere, a French citizen, who apparently resides in Mexico. Based on the information found in her passport, she had traveled through Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, and from there she was heading toward El Salvador, then to Guatemala, and possibly back to Mexico.

It seems that somewhere in Nicaragua the vehicle was prepared to transport the weapons from that country to El Salvador. The vehicle's top floor was made of wood covered with linoleum, and under it was a hidden compartment with a large amount of documents, 81-mm mortars with detonators and booster charges, and a large amount of bags with powerful mortar propelling charges, which would probably be used in war operations carried out by the FMLN. According to our source, authorities also found communications instructions, maps, and blueprints of Salvadoran garrisons, which gives the impression that some kind of operation was being planned in that country.

We learned that the person arrived as a normal traveler, but apparently military and police authorities who conduct the inspections at the border became suspicious and discovered that the vehicle had been specially prepared for this type of contraband and transported weapons.

We understand that French citizen Eve Florence de Massiere will be sent to the pertinent courts in our country's southern region to determine the legal responsibilities in the case, because she unlawfully tried to use our territory for the transport of illegal cargo, in this case war materiel, false documents, and plans for military operations in El Salvador by the FMLN.

Nicaragua

Sandinists Say Government To Fire More Workers

PA3108042490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Aug 90 pp1, 4

[Test] Jose Angel Bermudez, secretary general of the National Union of Employees (UNE) said on 29 August that the government is planning to fire 12,000 employees, including 4,000 soldiers. He said that the National Workers Front (CNT) has called an emergency meeting today to decide its position, in view of the seriousness of the situation.

There are 29 enterprises in the metals and machinery industry that are also fearing layoffs because of the lack of investments in the construction sector. Labor leader Eligio Chavez said that about 9,000 workers might be laid off.

The government refuses to grant financing to the metals and machinery enterprises. It has set the condition that eight million gold cordobas must be paid to complete several pending projects. To this refusal and condition,

we have to add the political pressures and the government's revengeful attitude, which increases tension and job instability.

Labor leaders said yesterday that this situation will affect the government's economic recovery program.

Jose Angel Bermudez, secretary general of the National Union of Employees (UNE) warned that, "it is absurd for the labor sector to participate in the concerted effort if the government keeps on firing employees, refuses to finance industry's recovery, and continues to apply its economic policies without consulting anyone."

He said that the government has violated 80 percent of the agreements that were signed on 12 July and ended the national strike that paralyzed the country's economic activity.

Bermudez detailed the violations of the agreements signed by Presidential Minister Antonio Lacayo. He said that "the government wants a concerted effort with the defeated labor movement, but that will never happen."

He said that the concerted effort has to be made among the government, producers, and workers, and if the government wants to involve political parties, "then let them have a separate political dialogue."

Bermudez said that more than 3,000 workers have been dismissed since 12 July because of political revenge. He said that the government is using the tactic of firing the employees to undermine the labor unions' solidarity.

The Sandinist Central Organization of Workers (CST) has called a meeting with the unemployed workers on 1 September to discuss several topics, among them the concerted effort.

Station Views Crisis Within Sandinism

PA3108022690 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1852 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Sandinism in Crisis"]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], now an opposition party, seems to have entered a crisis after it lost the 25 February elections. Last week while debating a lease bill, the Sandinist deputies expressed varying views on the extension of the deadline for vacating dwellings. There was disagreement between Rogelio Ramirez and William Ramirez. The latter lashed out at the proposal presented by his fellow party member. When the national congress in which the Sandinists would try to renew themselves was convened, the National Directorate was described as obsolete and held responsible for the electoral defeat. The accusation was leveled mainly at Bayardo Arce, the former campaign leader.

Carlos Tunnerman, ex-Sandinist ambassador to the United States, has criticized the National Directorate and demanded greater dynamism, restructuring at the rank and file level, and an organization similar to that of other parties.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, whose director has harshly criticized the National Directorate, today published remarks by Carlos Fonseca's son, Carlos Fonseca Teran, who has said that the party should get rid of ambitious members. Fonseca Teran said that the Sandinists should root themselves in social democracy and abandon their Marxist orthodox doctrine of the previous decade. The greatest evidence of the division within Sandinism was the removal of Javier Pichardo as Air Force chief. Pichardo later tried to seek refuge among the Sandinists, but they expelled him and later took him in.

Now the Sandinists, in the midst of their crisis, are blaming everybody. Some of them have accused the National Directorate of losing power. Some leaders have been accused of betraying the revolutionary principles.

Regardless of the reasons for the defeat, the truth is that the people have rejected the Sandinists. As analysts have said, the FSLN can only survive by adopting social democratic means.

Panama

Cabinet Approves Economic Plan After Long Debate

PA3008184390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] After a meeting that lasted more than six hours, the Cabinet Council last night approved the document on the new strategy for economic development and modernization. This new economic plan of the government, which was approved by the executive branch, will be revealed to the entire country by President of the Republic Guillermo Endara Galimany on 1 September during the installation of the Legislative Assembly's second period of regular sessions.

This new document contains the appropriate guidelines for the development and modernization of the country's economy.

Canal Treaty Negotiator on U.S. Agreement

PA3108005290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Aug 90 p 36-A

[Statement issued by Carlos Lopez Guevara, law school professor and former Panama Canal treaty negotiator, in Panama City on 24 August—outlining structure as published]

[Text] 1. Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford and Foreign Relations Minister Julio Linares attempted to commit the Republic of Panama **solely with their signatures** when they signed the agreement for a grant for the Economic Recovery Program, AID program No. 525-0303 dated 3 July 1990, between the Panamanian Government ("grantee") and the U.S. Government

through ("AID"), which will be referred to henceforth as the "agreement." This agreement was published in Official Gazette No. 21.581 of 17 July 1990.

2. On 20 August, on the morning radio program "The Word" hosted by journalist Mayin Correa, Foreign Minister Julio Linares stated why, according to him, the agreement in question need not be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

3. The purpose of this article is not to study the details of the agreement in order to judge its benefits or evils. Concerning this I will only underscore that, according to Clause 2.7, the United States reserves the right to end the agreement "...if the previous conditions (it should have read suspended conditions) specified in Section 2.1 are not fulfilled within 90 days..." Also, upon examining Clause 2.1 it will be noted that the documents required by the agreement will be presented by Panama "...in a manner and substance satisfactory to AID."

This same expression is used in Clauses 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5. In clearer language, this means that the United States has reserved the right to qualify the proof that Panama presents and to decide whether or not to make the grant.

4. The fundamental purpose of this article is to refute the theory put forth by Foreign Minister Linares before the Legislative Assembly's budget commission on 7 August, according to the session document that was given to me. Linares also stated this theory on the "The Word" program, during which he said that the agreement is not a treaty, and therefore it is not up to the Assembly to decide whether or not it has merit.

5. The 1946 Constitution states the following in Article 118, Ordinal 5:

"Article 118: The National Assembly's legislative functions consist of issuing the laws necessary for the fulfillment of state goals and for the execution of state functions declared in this Constitution, especially the following:

5: The approval or disapproval of public agreements made by the executive branch."

6. The 1972 Constitution, which was reformed by the 1983 Act, establishes the following in Article 153, **Ordinal 3**:

"Article 153. The legislative function is exercised through the Legislative Assembly and consists of issuing the necessary laws for the fulfillment of the goals and the exercise of state functions declared in this Constitution, especially the following:

"...3: The approval or disapproval, before their ratification, of international treaties and agreements made by the executive branch."

Note that the current Constitution demands that **all treaties and agreements** be submitted to the Legislative Assembly.

7. In keeping with Article 153 (3), Article 179, Ordinal 9 includes the following among the attributes bestowed upon the president, with the respective minister's participation:

"Article 179: The following are attributes exercised by the president of the Republic, with the participation of the respective minister:

"...9. To direct foreign relations; to establish **public treaties and agreements that will be submitted to the legislative branch for consideration,** and to accredit and meet with diplomatic and consular officials." (my emphasis)

8. Now that we have presented the appropriate rules of our positive law, it is time to ask **what is a treaty or agreement?** To explain, I will quote the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which Panama approved through Law 17 of 1979, published in the Gazette number 19106 of 7 July 1980. Article 2, Paragraph 1.a. states:

"Article 2 - Terms used.

"1.a. For the effects of the present convention, a "treaty" is to be understood as a written international agreement signed between states and governed by international law, regardless of whether such an agreement is represented by a single instrument or two or more interrelated instruments and regardless of the agreement's particular designation."

An objective, unbiased examination of this principle will tell us that the following requirements must be met for an instrument to qualify as a treaty in the light of the Vienna Convention, which is part of Panama's internal law:
a. The document must be regarded as an agreement.
b. It must have been agreed upon by states.
c. It must have been set forth in writing.
d. It must be governed by international law.

No interpretive effort is necessary to arrive at the undeniable conclusion that the agreement meets the previously mentioned rule. In other words, the agreement meets the presupposed definition of the Panamanian positive law.

9. The designation that the signatories gave the agreement is that of convention, which is one of the two words that the Constitution utilizes in Article 153, Paragraph 3, and Article 179, Paragraph 9, to rule that it is illegal for the executive to ratify this international instrument before the assembly has approved it.

10. It is appropriate here to quote what Dr. Cesar Quintero said in his work Constitutional Law, Volume I, 1967 edition, where he explained Paragraph 5 of Article 118 of the 1946 Constitution.

1. Paragraph 5 (Treaties). Another general peculiarity of democratic and liberal regimes is that public treaties—such as accords, pacts, conventions, agreements, arrangements, and protocols—signed between two or more states, are normally initiated and negotiated by the executive. As soon as the text of a treaty has been elaborated on and drafted into final form, the executive signs it through the foreign minister or the plenipotentiary minister, as the case may be. Once the treaty has been signed, the executive sends it to the assembly for it to approve or reject. The act whereby the assembly approves or rejects a treaty must be simple and total. This is to say, the assembly either approves or disproves it in its entirety. Unlike a budget or public works bill, for instance, the assembly is not empowered to introduce changes in the text of a treaty in the process of being ratified. The assembly cannot even return it with remarks. Such a return, with or without remarks, entails a rejection of the treaty.

If the assembly approves the treaty through the legislative procedure of three debates, the assembly turns it over to the executive just as it would any other bill. By sanctioning, that is to say, by signing the treaty, the executive ratifies the document and orders its promulgation. Once a treaty has been promulgated and exchanged with the other party, the document becomes a law of the Republic. Hence every public treaty, once it has been accomplished, becomes a formal law and is designated with the year it was passed into law.

Just as we have pointed out, it is the executive, not the assembly as it is usually said, that ratifies the treaties. Without the assembly's approval, however, a treaty cannot be ratified, exchanged, and is completely void.

We have said that all treaties take the configuration of formal law and are similarly enumerated. Regarding their regulating power, however, treaties are a posteriori laws, which cannot be affected by constitutions enacted after the treaty has expired, even if the constitution includes rules contrary to the treaty's clauses.

The 1904 Constitution clearly established the difference between approving and ratifying a treaty when it stated in Ordinal Number 4 of Article 65 that it is a legislative assembly function to: "Approve or disapprove of the public treaties signed by the executive branch, a requirement without which treaties cannot be ratified or exchanged."

In the current Constitution the corresponding ordinal number, or Ordinal Number 5 of Article 118 states only that the legislative assembly must:

"Approve or disapprove the public treaties signed by the executive."

Despite its greater brevity, the scope of both precepts is equal." [no opening quote marks as published] (my emphasis)

It has been established beyond all doubt that—according to Dr. Quintero, who has been a professor of constitutional law for many years—the treaties must be approved by the assembly before the executive branch ratifies them or, in other words, before they are given international transcendence.

I must underscore that Administration Attorney Aura Feraud, upon expressing her opinion, which coincides with Foreign Minister Linares', (see note 236 of 3 August 1990), supports her view by citing Cesar Quintero's opinion, which I have paraphrased in this document. However, it is obvious that Quintero feels that the executive branch needs the legislative branch's consent in order to validly bind Panama to another government.

11. Article 76 (1) of the Mexican Constitution is very similar to the Panamanian Constitution on the subject that is being examined here. Thus, I consider it appropriate to reproduce what treaty expert Modesto Seara Vasquez stated on page 211 of his book, "Public International Law:"

"We should remember that in reality the word ratification has two different, although related, meanings:

A. On the one hand, it is the operation whereby the state's internal law establishes the requirements for binding itself internationally. Every country has its own constitutional rules for determining which branch has the power to bind the state internationally. Some constitutions reserve that function for the executive, but that position was held by absolute monarchies and is gradually disappearing. Today, the leading constitutional systems grant that power to the joint legislative and executive branches.

According to the 1917 Constitution currently in use in Mexico, "It is the Senate's exclusive responsibility to:

1. Approve treaties and diplomatic conventions signed by the president of the Republic and foreign powers."

12. Foreign Minister Linares is attempting to shield himself behind Article 4 of the Constitution in order to maintain that what we describe as "simplified agreements" can be signed without the executive having to await the legislature's permission to ratify them. It is true that simplified agreements are very much in vogue worldwide, but that does not stand in the way of each president's first fulfilling his country's internal laws concerning the procedures of approval, rejection, and ratification.

The very Vienna Convention, in its Article 46, establishes that:

"Article 46: **Internal Law Arrangements Concerning the Power to Establish Treaties:**

1. The fact that a state's agreement to bind itself through a treaty is stated, thereby violating an internal law concerning the power to sign treaties, does not mean that the state can claim that its consent has been violated,

unless that violation is expressed and affects a fundamentally important internal law.

"2. A violation is manifest if it is objectively evident for any state that proceeds on the issue according to the usual practice and in good faith."

The text of the Panamanian Constitution is clear. The requisite for the mandatory prior parliamentarian approval is stated in Articles 153 and 179, which have been copied.

13. Both Minister Linares and the administration's attorney are trying to base their opinion on Articles 11 and 12 of the Vienna Convention, which refer to the forms in which a state can express its consent to acquire an international obligation. This form of statement includes the **signature**, the exchange of ratification instruments, the ratification of, the approval of, or the adherence to Article 11 of the Convention.

It is important to transcribe Article 12, which appears in the statement by the administration's attorney:

"Article 12. Consent to acquire an obligation through a treaty is stated by means of a signature.

"1. The consent of a state to acquire an obligation through a treaty will be stated by means of the signature of its representative.

"a) When the treaty states that the signature will have that effect;

"b) When it is stated otherwise that the negotiating states have agreed that the signature will have that effect; or

"c) When the state's intention to give that effect to the signature is inferred from its representative's full powers or when it has thus been stated during the negotiation."

The Vienna Convention states the various ways in which a state can state its willingness to acquire an obligation at international level; but those various forms must be adapted to the state's own constitutional framework, as decreed by the Convention in Article 46, **lest thay be rendered null**.

14. The administration's attorney referred to this norm and stated the following:

"According to this measure, the state may acquire an obligation through a treaty by means of the signature(s) of its representative(s), among other assumptions, whenever the agreement states that the negotiating states intend to give the signature this effect." (Page 4)

What is stated in these articles **is not** new. These forms of acquiring an obligation are very old in international relations. **The oldest one is the signature of treaties by kings, princes, and emperors**. When the parliament was created it began to participate in the handling of a state's foreign policies.

Upon examining the text of the Official Gazette 21,581, one does not find that the Panamanian negotiators specifically stated that Panama was dutybound merely by their signature. Even if it so stated, it would be an expression that is not authorized by the Constitution. The text of our Magna Carta stated that **all the treaties and agreements** signed by Panamanian representatives are **ad referendum**, meaning subject to the assembly's approval.

15. The Panamanians have worked hard and made many sacrifices to restore the rule of law and enforce its democratic institutions. The dictatorship that was rejected in the 7 May 1989 elections scorned the democratic Constitution that we chose in the 1983 referendum. That Constitution must be respected by the government and the people so that stability may return to the Republic and so that the enforcement of the law may be guaranteed.

16. The legislative branch constitutes one of the pillars of the tripod on which the Republic of Panama rests. That state branch plays a fundamental role in the system of checks and balances, essential to our constitutional regime. The executive branch has tried to ignore the legislative branch's vital role, which is to contribute to formulate Panamanian foreign policy in the form of treaties, regardless of the nature of the matter contained in the instrument that binds Panama. That is a question of principle. This is a matter of respecting Panama's fundamental norm.

The constitutional texts are clear, and the executive branch must abide by them in order to give a clearer example of respect for the basic norm and in order not to violate the Constitution.

17. In the face of the unequivocal text of the Constitution, which orders the executive branch to submit every agreement or treaty signed by the legislative assembly, it is **evident** the executive branch violated the Constitution by ratifying the agreement without the prior approval of the legislative assembly.

18. Those of us that struggled under the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] banner to restore democracy undertook the unavoidable commitment to nourish its roots. To achieve that lofty goal, there is nothing better than to always adhere to the Constitution. If Panama were to copy the U.S. practice of "executive agreements," this would not constitute the best way to strengthen democracy, since that would amount to seeking to circumvent the Constitution to avoid consulting the legislative branch, as mandated by the Constitution.

Cooperation among the three state branches injects democratic energy and vitality into the nation. The precedent we are setting today is negative for the health of Panama's democracy. Let us think of the future generations, and let us not jeopardize them by having the executive branch compromise the country with the easy recourse of the simplified agreements.

President Guillermo Endara has the perfect opportunity to take a giant step toward consolidating Panamanian democracy if he decides to send the agreement to the legislative assembly, as prudence and commitment to democracy dictate. In this way, I am fulfilling my duty, as a Panamanian citizen and an expert on public international law, to inform Panamanians of key aspects of our Constitution. It is up to my fellow citizens to responsibly take a stance on this significant debate of consequences for the fate of Panama. 24 August 1990, Panama, Dr. Carlos Alfredo Lopez Guevara

PTJ's Loaiza on Police Force Purge, Crime Rate

PA3008205990 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Aug 90 p 8a

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Leslie Loaiza, director of the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ], who said that he has managed to purge more than half of the PTJ members who have cases pending with the courts, revealed alarming statistics on the increase of the crime rate in the past six months.

During a Kiwanis Club luncheon meeting at which he delivered a speech, Loaiza said that the PTJ is undergoing a purge that has not yet concluded.

He added that the Public Prosecutor's Office must be the main ally in this purge of the PTJ.

As for the charges leveled by Prosecutor Emilio de Leon, Loaiza pointed out that if this official has evidence, he should proceed, because he has the legal power to order arrests, Loaiza said.

Loaiza made assurances that no current PTJ member is wanted by the Public Prosecutor's Office at this time.

Regarding the increase in the crime rate, Loaiza displayed revealing charts showing that in the past six months there were 7,207 thefts [hurtos], 1,351 car thefts, 325 burglaries [robos], 1,357 armed robberies, and 77 rapes.

Director Loaiza said that the PTJ has 392 members in comparison to the 600 members of the extinct DENI [National Investigations Department], because it has managed to purge more than half of the institution's members.

Loaiza said that the institution is willing to accept criticism about its inability to capture criminals, but he added that the PTJ conducts investigations.

Director Loaiza, revealing that the PTJ is on the trail of a Chinese mafia gang operating in Panama, announced that the capture of its members is expected soon.

Arrest Warrant Issued Against Former Legislator

PA3108022990 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 29 Aug 90 pp 48, 30

[Text] Danilo Montenegro, prosecutor of the fourth circuit court, yesterday issued an arrest warrant against former PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Luis "Lucho" Gomez, who, according to reports, is thinking of leaving the Cuban Embassy where he sought political asylum in December.

In an explanatory note, Julio Berrios, general director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Affairs Office, stated that Gomez' lawyer told him that the cases against his client lack any merit to order Gomez' arrest.

However, the official noted that the arrest warrant was issued based on investigations that are being conducted by the Fourth Prosecuting Office on the murder of Armando Moran Nunez during an incident that occurred on 30 August 1987 in San Miguelito District. Federico Morales Cerrud was also hurt in this incident.

Montenegro said that there is enough proof to arrest Gomez after a "thorough and lengthy" investigation of Moran's death.

He stressed that the Prosecuting Office sent a request to the Judicial Technical Police requesting that the former legislator be captured. Another document was sent to the Immigration Directorate to prevent Gomez—who remains at the Cuban Embassy—from leaving the country.

Montenegro said that another person accused of the crime against Moran is Legislator Balbina de Perinan.

Regarding evidence that a U.S. citizen was to present in connection with the 30 August 1987 incidents, Montenegro said that the evidence has not been presented yet.

Soviet Official Tours 'To Normalize' Relations

PA3108025890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1841 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A high-ranking Soviet official said today in Panama that the Soviet Union is carrying out various initiatives to normalize its relations with all of the Central American countries.

"We are prepared to establish diplomatic relations, as soon as possible, with all countries in the area," Yan Burliay, deputy director of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Latin American countries, told ACAN-EFE.

Currently the Soviet Union has embassies only in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Burliay's trip is the first by a high-ranking official to El Salvador and the second to Guatemala.

Burliay described as "excellent" the attention he received in El Salvador, where he met on Friday [24

August] with President Alfredo Cristiani, Interior Minister Juan Martinez Varela, Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas, and other Cabinet ministers.

He said that the Soviet Union supports the peace talks between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and noted Cristiani's "courage" for having "begun the dialogue under the current conditions of civil war."

The Soviet official acknowledged the United States' "willingness" to help put an end to the civil war in El Salvador "although it could take more important steps in that sense."

"For instance, the United States could declare a moratorium on the delivery of weapons to the Salvadoran Army, like we did in the case of the Nicaraguan Army," Burliay said, alluding to the Soviets' decision to suspend arms shipments while the Sandinists, in power, were negotiating an end to the civil war with the contras.

Burliay also expressed satisfaction with his meeting with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera last week and voiced hopes for a "prompt resumption of relations" after the break in 1943, which occurred before Guatemala and the USSR had formalized an exchange of ambassadors.

Diplomatic relations between the USSR and Panama—which have never existed—are conditional upon "the normalization of that country's internal situation and its relations with the other Latin American countries," said Burliay, who has not met with any Panamanian official while on his way to Venezuela.

Burliay called for the normalization of relations between Panama and Cuba, which deteriorated because of the U.S. invasion of Panama of 20 December and the attendant criticism against President Guillermo Endara's government by Cuba.

Burliay expressed optimism over the political transition in Nicaragua, "where the more sensible people in both the government (of Violeta Chamorro) and the Sandinist leadership have greater authority" and reasserted the Soviet Government's readiness to maintain economic cooperation with that country.

Regarding Honduras, he explained that the Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua, Valeriy Nikolayenko, met recently with Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias to promote relations between the two countries.

State Teachers March To Demand Overdue Payments

PA3008145390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Despite Education Minister Ada de Gordon's call yesterday for a normal school day today, a high percentage of the state schools suspended classes when neither students nor teachers showed up. However, private schools had a usual school day, and the teaching-learning process was carried out normally.

A teachers' march to demand a number of points that would improve the Panamanian teachers' situation was scheduled for today. This march coincided with the Education Ministry's difficult situation regarding the students of the National Institute, which has caused student protests over the last week and the beginning of this week. The students requested the mediation of four persons to solve the conflict, but the ministry accepted only two of the four. It rejected the mediation of the attorney general and National University Principal Abdiel Adames, who Minister Gordon said was "biased in this conflict."

[Adames] *I have at no time been biased. I have shown a personal attitude, have professional training, and, due to the responsibility I have toward this institution, have dealt with the situation with the greatest equanimity and objectivity, which is always required and which I have always shown during all of my public activities.*

In the meantime, Alberto Quiros Guardia, president of the National Journalists' Association and a mediator in the conflict, expressed optimism about finding a solution but rejected the use of violence during last week's demonstrations.

[Quiros] *We hope that both sides will allow a group of persons to mediate, that the other two persons who were with us will accept us two as mediators, that the National Institute will accept the mediation of only two instead of four, and that, on the other hand, the students of the institute will have something to say regarding the other two persons proposed by Minister Gordon.*

[Student Florentino Pineda] *We do not accept as mediators the two persons who were appointed by the ministry, Batista and Douglas. The Education Ministry must look for other persons. However, since Minister Gordon did not accept Attorney General Cruz or National University Principal Abdiel Adames, we proposed Mrs. Leonor [no last name given], who is the coordinator of the Students' Parents Club of the Metropolitan School.*

For their part, parents of the students of the National Institute met this morning with the principal and other authorities of the National Institute to solve the situation so that the students will not lose any more classtime.

The Education Ministry's problems increased today with the teachers' march. The teachers gathered around the Education Ministry. According to Nestor Mendez, member of the Teacher's Association, the march was not only aimed at demanding the overdue payments.

[Mendez] *One of the reasons is that they have not paid the teachers. Another reason is that they have not paid the overdue payments we have deserved for over 15 months, and the ministry is not showing any will to pay those overdue payments.*

The protest began, going through Calidonia, Central Avenue, 5 May Plaza, and Santa Ana Park until it reached the Presidency. At the Presidency the teachers presented a document to President Endara stating their requests and the need to reach a solution to the conflict.

Despite the installation of a new government, the conflicts in the education sector continue. On one hand, there are student demonstrations and their clashes with the Public Force, and, on the other hand, there are teachers demanding a better situation. The question now is: How far will the crisis in Panamanian education go?

Banking Commission Notes Increase in Deposits

PA3108003190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Aug 90 20-B

[Report by Maricarmen Sarsanedas]

[Text] The National Banking Commission, in a report signed by its Executive Director Ernesto A. Boyd on the banking system since it resumed normal operations, has said that since December 1989 the system's current assets have increased by $958 million and deposits by $1.667 billion.

According to the report, $286 million in total deposits were received between 10 July and 14 August, one month after the time deposits were unfrozen.

It has also been reported that these deposit increases have resulted in a 30-percent liquidity in the system, while the liquidity in the government banks has risen from from 13 percent in December 1989 to 37 percent in August. This liquidity in the government banks represents an increase of $476 million in its current assets and $420 million in deposits received.

During the same period, the current assets in foreign banks have increased by $371 million, and deposits have increased by 1.115 billion; both represent a 28-percent liquidity.

Argentina

Menem Rules Out Nuclear Dump Near Chile

PY3008145290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Argentine President Carlos Menem has said that he believes that ideologies are no longer significant and that the most important point is that a government functions properly. He added that ideas have been distorted by ideologies, which are no longer valid around the world and much less in Argentina. He made these remarks during a press conference that wound up his 3-day visit to Chile. [passage omitted]

The Argentine president also referred to nuclear development in his country. He categorically ruled out the construction of a nuclear dump in Argentine territory near Chile. [passage omitted]

Kohan Leaves for South Africa for Talks on Ties

PY3008200090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Aug 90 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Presidential chief-of-staff Alberto Kohan leaves for South Africa today for exploratory talks on the possibility of renewing diplomatic relations between the two nations and to arrange the Argentine visit of South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

Diplomatic relations with South Africa were suspended during the administration of former President Raul Alfonsin.

Kohan will spend about a week in South Africa and will be travelling with retired General Fausto Gonzalez. Before leaving, he said diplomatic relations would be restored only within the framework of recent United Nations resolutions. "Argentina will not move away unilaterally from international organizations," Kohan said.

Anzorregui Named Assistant Supreme Court Justice

PY3008200290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Aug 90 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Government appointed former judge Hugo Anzorregui as assistant Supreme Court justice. Anzorregui—father of the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] state intelligence chief of the same name—will replace justices on temporary leaves of holiday.

Bolivia

Official, Judge on Extradition Treaty With U.S.

PY3008214390 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Justice Ministry under secretary has stated that for the time being the conditions are not right for signing an extradition treaty with the United States. Under Secretary Roger Pando said that the Bolivian Government, before thinking about extradition treaties, must strengthen the court system in charge of handling drug-related cases.

According to Pando, Bolivia must closely study any extradition request but for the time being there is no intention of signing an extradition treaty with the United States. Roger Pando added that up to now it has not been necessary to extradite anyone.

Roger Pando made this statement after Xavier Montano, chief of the La Paz District Superior Court, had criticized the U.S. courts. Montano said: After releasing Washington Mayor Marion Barry, who was charged with 14 counts of drug trafficking and consumption, the U.S. Government lacks the moral basis to request anyone's extradition. He added: Why hand Bolivian criminals over to the U.S. courts if they cannot try their own?

Despite the statements by Pando and Montano, we must note that through a so-called political decision, the Bolivian Government handed former Minister Luis Arce Gomez over to U.S. courts. It must also be noted that the U.S. Government is interested in extraditing Roberto Surez Gomez despite the fact that the so-called king of cocaine has been serving a sentence in the San Pedro jail since 1988.

PLO Envoy Condemns 'Foreign Meddling' in Gulf

PY3008211890 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] PLO Representative in Bolivia George Salama said on 20 August that this organization condemns any violation of the principles of international law.

Salama and Chazi Fakhari Marrar [name as published], vice president of the Palestinian Council headquartered in Oman, held a protocol meeting with Senate President Gonzalo Valda.

Salama reasserted after the meeting that the Palestinian people do not support any type of invasion, but they agree with the position "that efforts should be made to peacefully solve the (Persian Gulf) conflict."

He said that the PLO has demonstrated that it is like the "Phoenix," becoming stronger after conflicts, and that this situation will further strengthen the PLO's position.

Salama said: "The conflict should be solved by members of the Arab family, without any kind of foreign meddling." He thus categorically rejected the presence of U.S. troops and those from other foreign countries in the region.

During the meeting Valda welcomed the Palestinian delegation, which will be in the country for several days.

Valda said that on 22 August the Palestinian delegation will attend the Congress session during which the

Bolivian Government will announce its decision to support people struggling for their independence.

Fakhari thanked Valda and conveyed to him the wish of the Palestinian Government and people that Bolivia achieve its objectives.

Territory 'Potentially Threatened' by Neighbors

PY3108032690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1606 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] La Paz, 24 Aug (EFE)—The National Security Council (Conase), a top-level organization under the jurisdiction of the Bolivian Presidency, has warned that Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Peru have geopolitical objectives that threaten Bolivia's territorial integrity.

Yesterday, at a seminar sponsored by the government and the private Foundation for Democracy (Fundemos) [Fundacion para la Democracia], Colonel Carlos Tapia, chief of the Conase Geopolitical Department, stated that Bolivia's territorial integrity is potentially threatened by the political objectives of the five countries that share borders with Bolivia.

Col. Tapia expressed the Conase's concern over Brazil's geopolitical superiority and Chile's monopolistic position on the Pacific coast. He said, however, that Argentina's geopolitical objectives do not worry the Bolivian Government very much because of the serious crisis that country is confronting, nor do Paraguay and Peru, because there is a balance of power between those countries and Bolivia.

Tapia explained that Bolivia does not yet have a foreign policy or a border development policy because it has only 165 years of republican life. [sentence as received] He described the geopolitical interests of those five nations as threatening to Bolivia's territorial integrity.

Brazil wants an outlet to the Pacific Ocean, which can only be achieved through the Bolivian Amazon region to the Peruvian town of Tacna, Tapia stated. He also pointed out that Chile has been keeping an eye on territory in southern Bolivia, where the largest reserves of lithium and other minerals in the world can be found.

According to the colonel, Peru's main objective is to occupy the Amazon area containing Bolivia's Pando Department and the La Paz Province of Iturralde, both located in northern Bolivia.

Argentina also has geopolitical interests in the Bolivian territory, but it would rather pay more attention to Chile, which maintains a "kind of monopoly on the Pacific coast in South America," Tapia stated.

Paraguay, which "doesn't worry us too much" because of the balance of power, wants to recover Santa Cruz Department in eastern Bolivia, which it seized for a few days during the 1933-1936 Chaco war between the two countries.

Finance Minister Reports on Economic Situation

PY3008150090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Finance Minister David Blanco has given assurance that the estimate of 11-12 percent inflation rate for this year is unchanged due to the job performed by his ministry's personnel and to the international financial behavior.

Blanco said that the inflationary situation has improved in Bolivia in the past 12 months.

[Begin Blanco recording, in progress]....that I reported this morning to the members of the Patriotic Accord are extremely encouraging. I would like to say that the current situation is one of the best in the past 12 months, proof of this are the following figures:

First; the inflation rate between 1 January and 28 August stood at 6.9 percent. Despite the fact that there have been changes in the economic policies of neighboring countries in the past 30 days, we expect that our inflation will stand at 11 or 12 percent in 1990. The GDP for 1990 will reach three percent, and it will mainly depend on the private investment in the next [word indistinct] in the mining and hydrocarbons sectors [words indistinct]. Thanks to the public deficit restriction policy our reserves at the Central Bank have been strengthened. Our disposable reserves stand at $218 million while our committed reserves have reached $91 million. This mean that we will continue with the exchange policy implemented this year. [end recording]

Brazil

Piva Reportedly Visited Baghdad 24-26 Aug

PY3008122890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Aug 90 p 20

[Report by Leticia Borges]

[Text] Brasilia—Brigadier Hugo Piva, owner of the consulting company HOP [Hugo de Oliveira Piva] which provides military advice to Iraq, visited Baghdad from Friday to Sunday [24-26 August]. According to a government source, he met with some Iraqi officials in an effort to resolve the situation of his personnel in that country and to guarantee the current contracts. Piva met with several Iraqi military and political officials.

According to the source, he arrived and departed through Geneva. Federal Police records, however, are clear: On 12 May Piva boarded a plane at the Galeao Airport, [Rio de Janeiro] bound for Paris, and returned to Brazil on 1 June. Officially Piva is in Brazil, although clandestinely he is abroad.

The mystery deepens: Piva himself strengthens this theory because he never reports to the Brazilian embassy in Baghdad, and he did not do so last week. Likewise, the

group linked to him does not usually socialize with the Brazilian community nor do they attend any embassy functions.

His group is estimated at 23 people. They have been contracted by the Iraqi Government and are not being linked to any organization, as if they were tied by individual contracts.

The most recent reports say that they are not military. This does not mean that they were not students of the Aeronautics Technological Institute. There are no indications—and this has been assured by the Aeronautics Ministry—that they are developing any projects like the Piranha missile which was developed by the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA), where Piva was a director.

Yesterday, Itamaraty provided the first details about this group that has always been considered by Brazilians in Iraq as having been "contracted by the Iraqi Government." According to Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel, they are living in some sort of superblocks (like those in Brasilia) in Baghdad. They have no cars but ride special buses guarded by security agents. They buy whatever they need at the superblock and identify themselves as independent engineers. The neighborhoods where they live are also inhabited by Industry Ministry officials and other foreigners, including Soviets.

They only went to the Brazilian Embassy long after the other Brazilian citizens and did not submit any special request to Itamaraty, unlike the other companies, to obtain exit visas. Itamaraty does not even know whether they belong to the HOP company or not. The HOP company may have only been an intermediary in contracting these engineers.

Mendes Company Says Work in Iraq Suspended

PY3008125690 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Aug 90 p 20

[Text] Belo Horizonte—The Mendes Junior Company yesterday announced that it is not necessary to confirm the suspension of its contracts with its Iraqi clients, worth an estimated $680 million, because the economic blockade established by the United Nations against that country has caused a de facto suspension of the work, making the contracts unfeasible. According to Luis Pozzobon, of the company's international department, the Mendes Junior Company normally receives a large proportion of its payments in petroleum but now imports of all Iraqi products have been suspended. This constructing company is now unable to send new equipment or more employees. The Mendes Junior Company has equipment in Iraq worth an estimated $380 million and has had to contract an Iraqi enterprise for the maintenance of this equipment.

The Mendes Junior Company also revealed that it will spend $500,000 to charter an airplane to take out 216 employees who are still in Iraq. They are only awaiting exit visas from the Iraqi Government to leave for Amman, Jordan. The Mendes Junior Company also confirmed the arrival in Brazil today of 10 people, relatives of employees. They are arriving from Amman. Their arrival at the Galeao Airport in Rio de Janeiro is scheduled for 0530 [local time].

Their arrival in Belo Horizonte is scheduled for 0730 or 0930, depending on seats available on regular flights.

According to Pozzobon, a new request for the release of 216 employees who are in the Expressway camp was formally submitted yesterday through Itamaraty. He did not confirm, however, the report that they had set fire to the Expressway private club in a way to put pressure on the enterprise. He said that an investigation shows that the fire was caused by a short-circuit in the air conditioning system.

Itamaraty Says Citizens in Iraq 'Not Hostages'

PY3108014690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Report by Gustavo Mariani from Itamaraty]

[Text] In response to reports published yesterday by the North American newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel today emphasized that the Brazilians who are still in Iraq are not hostages.

It is not true that [words indistinct] the Brazilians remain in Iraq as hostages. This was guaranteed by Itamaraty Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel in response to reports published by the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST.

[Begin Pimentel recording] Those figures are slightly incorrect. Actually, the number [of Brazilians still in Iraq] is smaller. [words indistinct] the total number of Brazilians who remain in Iraq does not exceed 300. The lists of names were distributed here in Itamaraty several days ago. All the media had access to them. There are currently 290 names on those lists. [end recording]

Itamaraty Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel explained that the term hostages was used incorrectly, bearing in mind that Iraq is not imposing any condition on Brazil for the departure of the Brazilians who are still there.

U.S. Offers Cooperation in Advanced Technology

PY3108012890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Aug 90 p 19

[Report by Leticia Borges]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President George Bush has sent a letter to President Fernando Collor expressing the interest of the United States in cooperating with Brazil in the area of advanced technology. Without mentioning the Nonproliferation Treaty, which Brazil has not signed, Bush says that he believes in the Brazilian Government's demonstrations of its peaceful use of advanced technology.

Although the letter—which was delivered by Ambassador Richard Melton on Wednesday—does not mention Iraq, there is a clear message indicating that Brazil should not worry about a break with Iraq in that sector because it would be compensated. According to Brazilian diplomats, this compensation would be more than satisfactory, which demonstrates that Brazil was on the right track when it immediately adhered to the UN resolution against Iraq.

In his letter Bush refers to Brazil's support for the Tlatelolco Treaty and the fact that it has not used nuclear energy in Latin America for purposes of war, even though the country has not signed the treaty. Brazil and Argentina are studying the development of other types of guarantees on the use of nuclear energy which are even more restrictive than those of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Authority]. Bush, although he does not explicitly mention the neighboring country, also mentions this possibility.

The message also does not mention the question of the sale of a U.S. supercomputer to Brazil. On the contrary, the technology that Bush is speaking about goes even further than that, according to Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, who accompanied Ambassador Melton during his audience. [passage omitted on unrelated material]

Embratel Purchases Two Communications Satellites

PY3008142090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Embratel [Brazilian Telecommunications Company] signed a contract in Rio de Janeiro today for the purchase of two second-generation domestic satellites.

The satellites will guarantee communication services until the year 2006. The contract was signed with the consortium made up of Promon Engineering and Hughes Aircraft. The contract is worth $175 million. The next step will be to establish the financial terms, to obtain the import license, and to determine the date on which the project will start.

With the purchase of the two second-generation domestic satellites Brazil will guarantee the continuation of satellite communication services for television, telephone, and data transmission until the year 2006. The construction of the second generation satellites will begin four months after the necessary arrangement among the parties are made.

Brasilsat B1, which will replace Brasilsat A1, will be placed in orbit in April 1994 and Brasilsat B2, which will replace A2, will be placed in orbit in October 1994. The advantages of the Brasilsats B1 and B2 include the improvement of their signals, their greater lifespan, and the reduced cost of the associated parabolic antennas. Their lifespan will be about 12 years as compared to eight to 10 years for the A1 and A2.

IBGE Announces Consumer Price Index for Aug

PY3108015590 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has just announced the Fiscal Value Readjustment Index, IRVF, and the Consumer Price Index, CPI, for August. The IRVF totaled 10.58 percent and the CPI 12.03 percent. These figures are lower than those reported for July, indicating a decline in the inflation rate.

With the 10.58-percent IRVF for August, savings accounts will pay 11.08-percent interest in September.

Correction to Nuclear Reactors for Radar Sites

PY2908021690

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Nuclear Reactors for Remote Sites Under Research" published in the 29 August Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 39, column one:

Paragraph five, sentence three make read: These radioactive materials only emit alpha and beta... (rewording)

Chile

Seven Bilateral Agreements Signed With Argentina

PY3008153690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] During a ceremony attended by Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Argentine President Carlos Menem, their two governments today at noon signed seven bilateral agreements and a joint declaration. Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo signed the agreements on the following subjects: telecommunications; the use and trafficking of drugs and narcotics; the elimination of visas in diplomatic, official, and special passports; the deployment of border control service vehicles and personnel; and the work of relatives of diplomats and consular personnel of both nations.

The presidents signed agreements on Antarctic cooperation and on the general groundwork for an economic supplementation accord. They also signed an 81-topic joint declaration in which they vow to immediately and effectively implement bilateral integration in the physical, economic, and energy sectors. The presidents also supported the Argentine and Chilean lawmakers' wishes to create a joint congressional committee.

The joint declaration mentions cooperation in a large number of sectors like border passes, transportation, water resources, nuclear energy, tourism, mining, etc.

The ceremony was held at La Moneda Palace. President Aylwin said that the visit by the Argentine president has been very satisfactory.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I believe that this visit is a landmark in the relations between our two countries and that it represents the crowning point of a process of close contacts that we began following the inauguration of the current Chilean Government, in search of solutions to all the problems affecting our relations. We have thus sought to fulfill, through practical measures, the wishes that are expressed in the peace and friendship treaty that our two countries signed in 1984. This treaty was signed under the inspiration of the will for peace and understanding among nations that was expressed by Pope John Paul II. [end recording]

Aylwin stressed that the agreements have great political importance, noting that a new stage has begun in the relations between the two countries.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Our relations have for years been marked, one way or the other, by some distrust. We have now set in motion a system in which all subjects that are important for Argentina and Chile—in the political, border, economic, social and cultural areas—will be addressed in a very frank manner. Through this dialogue we have tried to reach accords leading to policies that may complement each other, in order to promote the joint development of our nations. [end recording]

Aylwin added that his government would like to see how the two countries can implement a expanded economic agreement in 1995. He stressed, however, that this should be accomplished on very concrete bases and that a 6-month period has therefore been set for the negotiations.

Menem Ends Visit, Returns Home

PY3008012290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] This afternoon Argentine President Carlos Menem returned to Buenos Aires after a final meeting with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. The two presidents signed a 40-point integration agreement.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Elections Bill

PY3008151690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a split decision, the Constitution, Legislation, and Justice Commissions today approved the municipal reform bill which establishes direct elections for mayors. The voting was as follows: 14 deputies voted for the bill, three voted against, and seven abstained.

Fuel Prices Hiked by 23 to 26 Percent

PY3008183690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Report by Maria Veronica Munoz]

[Excerpt] The prices of the fuels that are distributed by ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] will be increased by between 23 and 26 percent as of midnight tonight. This is because there has been an increase in the international price of petroleum due to the Persian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Two 'Extraditables' Arrested in Last 24 Hours

PA3008183090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Aug (EFE)—Military sources have reported that the Colombian Army today captured suspected drug trafficker Luis Felipe Fonseca Beltran, whose extradition is sought by the United States. He is the second mafia member to be arrested in less than 24 hours.

Fonseca Beltran was arrested in Puerto Boyaca, in central Colombia, by soldiers of the 14th Military Brigade.

The sources stated that Beltran was arrested along with another man, identified as Epimenio Gonzalez Paredes, who is wanted by several Colombian courts.

Fonseca Beltran will be taken today to Bogota, where he will be turned over to the Justice Ministry, which is in charge of processing the documents provided by the U.S. Embassy for the extradition.

Fonseca Beltran was arrested less than 24 hours after agents of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS, Colombian secret police) arrested suspected drug trafficker Seregio Restrepo Restrepo in Medellin on 29 August. His extradition is also sought by the United States.

Sixteen suspected drug traffickers have been sent to the United States since former President Virgilio Barco reestablished extradition to the United States on 18 August 1989 when he declared war on the drug mafias.

Since the Supreme Court declared in June 1987 that sending citizens to other countries was unconstitutional, the extraditions are made through the administrative action of the president, without judicial participation.

Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, who took office on 7 August, has reiterated that extradition is not the only means to combat drug trafficking. To date, he has not authorized the extradition of any of the 16 drug traffickers who are being held in Bogota and are sought by U.S. courts.

Ecopetrol Recommends Gasoline Price Increase

PA3108003290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Bogota, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Although the price of crude oil has increased, the Colombian Petroleum

Enterprise (Ecopetrol) will experience more than $2 billion in losses because the price of gasoline on the international market has also increased.

To meet its domestic needs, Colombia imports 33,000 barrels of gasoline a day and pays the United States, its main provider and commercial partner, more than $1 million a day for the gasoline.

An Ecopetrol report indicates that even though Colombia is not a big oil-producing country, it has increased its exports of crude oil by 28,000 barrels, for which it receives an additional $2 million a day. This additional income, however, will have to be used to pay for gasoline, rather than go into the treasury, if the price continues to increase abroad.

The high gasoline prices could even force the Finance Ministry to increase Colombian gasoline prices. This measure would avoid additional financial setbacks for Ecopetrol which has lost more than $200 million this year.

Ecopetrol President Andres Restrepo Londono has said that the additional revenues are short-term benefits because the domestic subsidy of gasoline is very high. Colombia has one of the highest gasoline subsidy rates. A gallon of regular gasoline sells for the equivalent of $0.51 and a gallon of high-octane extra gasoline sells for $0.60.

According to Ecopetrol's estimates, Colombians use 109,000 barrels of gasoline a day and the government has to import 33,000 barrels. Before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Colombia exported an average of 200,000 barrels of crude oil a day (at $12.75 a barrel) and purchased gasoline at $24.00 a barrel. Today it receives almost $29 per barrel of petroleum, but pays $35 for the gasoline it imports.

Colombia received $36 million in additional revenues with the increase of its crude oil exports and spent $20 million importing gasoline during the first 15 days of the Persian Gulf crisis. From these transactions, Colombia has made $16 million in profits.

According to Ecopetrol, Colombia produced 451,000 barrels of petroleum a day in July and expects to produce 466,000 in August. Half its production will be allotted for domestic use and the other half will be sold on the international market. The gasoline subsidy budget, however, will increase from $130 million to $200 million and this expense will eliminate the petroleum "bonanza."

Ecopetrol has presented a report to the board of directors in which they request that gasoline prices be readjusted. There is a possibility that this will occur. The report also indicates that the subsidy currently given to a barrel of gasoline is $9.80. Ecopetrol has lost $210 million this year because of gasoline subsidies and estimates its losses will amount to more than $240 million if domestic gasoline prices are not increased.

* DIJIN Director on Violence, Cartels

90SM0226A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Jul 90 pp 1-a, 12-a

[Interview with DIJIN Director, Colonel Oscar Pelaez Carmona at DIJIN headquarters, Bogota, by EL TIEMPO legal editorial staff; date not given]

[Text] He has spent many years in police work, and now he is in the eye of the hurricane of the war against drugs. His men consider him a model colonel, a very active and noble-hearted man. His enemies say he is the officer who instigated the torture and death of the hired men working for the drug lords in the capital city of Antioquia.

This is Oscar Pelaez Carmona, who is 49 years old. He has traveled a great deal—to France, Spain, the United States—learning more of his job.

But even so, in his innermost being, he is still a modest provincial man, an easy-going peasant who wouldn't trade a traditional stew for any other dish, and a man who believes, while he is consulting the experts on violence, that a good part of the search for solutions in this strife-torn country is to be found in a return to civic instruction and courtesy.

Next to his office is a small room containing a single bed, a television set, and a table. Forced by the pressures of events—security needs and a lot of work—he spends several nights a week in this room.

A devout Christian, he prays frequently, attends mass at least twice a week, and knows that he is protected by the Holy Virgin and by Jesus Christ.

EL TIEMPO visited and interviewed him in his office, the DIJIN [Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate] headquarters. There he lives surrounded by his men along with the most thoroughly systematized information system Colombia has on violence, criminal activity, and its perpetrators; also under this same roof sleep 17 Colombians whose extradition is being sought by the United States.

[EL TIEMPO] The "Extraditables" have announced a new truce, and they are again holding you responsible for the death of young people in the neighborhoods of Medellin.

[Pelaez Carmona] Yes, in a statement in which they also say that they have assassinated 215 members of the police, judges, magistrates, politicians, and journalists. The DIJIN is doing intelligence work in this battle against drugs. Not only do they attack us, killing police and agents belonging to DIJIN, but they are trying to draw us into the violence that is tearing Medellin apart.

[EL TIEMPO] But what do you and your men have to do with crimes committed by civilians in the Medellin neighborhoods?

[P.C.] Not a single one of our men [has had anything to do with this]. There is social chaos in Medellin, there are gangs and more gangs, vendettas, accusations, shots fired from different fronts, and many people are fishing in those murky waters. I don't deny the possibility that some policemen or relatives of policemen who have been killed may take their revenge in some isolated cases, but not the institution as such.

[EL TIEMPO] So why do the Extraditables keep dwelling on this?

[P.C.] It's a tactic used in war. They have to weaken the enemy in the eyes of public opinion. The crime of Gomez Plata, a town in Antioquia where a number of lower-level drug dealers were assassinated, happened at a time when there was not a single DIJIN man involved in operational work in Medellin. Nevertheless, after that event, and from that time on, the DIJIN has been held responsible for it. Our headquarters is investigating those events, and has not established any responsibility on our part at all.

[EL TIEMPO] The Cartel has offered a truce. Do you believe in it?

[P.C.] A number of policemen have been killed since the truce started. As the minister of government said, it is "disgusting" for people who admit that they are the perpetrators of hundreds of crimes to talk about a truce.

[EL TIEMPO] But do you believe in the truce?

[P.C.] It's my job to enforce the law, and to go after criminals. That's all.

[EL TIEMPO] Even so, after all your efforts you still haven't managed to catch Pablo Escobar, despite repeated announcements that you are closing in on him. Why?

[P.C.] Escobar has set up an empire, using the power of his money. First of all, that infrastructure has to be broken down, and that's what we are doing now. Now he is a man on the run, and he is an expert in that, in staying underground.

[EL TIEMPO] But can one man do more than an entire state?

[P.C.] No. If that were true he wouldn't be in hiding. He isn't taking a stand and fighting, he is on the run, and he is using as a tool the most brutal weapon of our times: terrorism. Even so, his efforts are growing weaker all the time.

[EL TIEMPO] But you are going to catch him some day.

[P.C.] I can only tell you that he and his organization have never been weaker than they are now. His ascendancy over other criminals is more because they are afraid of him than from loyalty.

[EL TIEMPO] Is it true that in the operations against Escobar the order is to shoot to kill if they find him?

[P.C.] No. Only if he tries to confront the authorities or to escape, then they will have to respond to his attempts. The police are working inside the framework of the law. There is no death penalty here.

[EL TIEMPO] What is going on with the rest of the drug dealers? For example, why aren't you going after the men in the Cali Cartel?

[P.C.] The war is against all drug traffickers. It's just that Escobar with his crimes gets more space in the press. It's really more a matter of media emphasis. The Cali Cartel has taken many hard knocks that don't get much attention.

[EL TIEMPO] Like what?

[P.C.] Some of the people extradited to the United States have been members of the Cali Cartel. The amounts of coca that have been seized from them are almost astronomical.

[EL TIEMPO] More than one plan to assassinate you has been uncovered. Aren't you afraid?

[P.C.] Fear is a human emotion, but I have to do my duty, and I believe in God and in the Holy Virgin.

[EL TIEMPO] How is this war against the drug traffic going to end?

[P.C.] As the president, the minister of defense, and the director of the police have all said, drug trafficking is a multinational phenomenon. Colombia is on the right track to reduce the problem to a manageable level, where drug trafficking will not be a semi-official enterprise, as it almost came to be.

[EL TIEMPO] Some people say that in order to have achieved so much power drug trafficking must have penetrated the National Police force at different levels.

[P.C.] Drug trafficking is a virus and a virus penetrates different parts of the body that it invades. The National Police are not exempt from that reality. But a great deal of work has been done in this field. So today the police are being targetted by the drug mafia, more than any other group, so much so that in the Medellin Cartel they brag about the police they have assassinated.

[EL TIEMPO] Some people are saying that this entire war will turn out to be just another never-ending conflict promoted by the United States, which is looking for a new battleground.

[P.C.] Drug trafficking, with the power of its money, has been corrupting society. Drugs have poisoned adolescents, destroyed their lives, and what's more, drugs have fed national violence in an unrestrained form. Such an enemy has to be fought. This is part and parcel of the soundest form of a nationalist spirit.

[EL TIEMPO] Newspapers in the United States, and Pablo Escobar, in what have been called his memoirs, keep saying that the major coup in this war, the murder

of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, was an operation planned and executed by the United States.

[P.C.] I can attest that it was planned and executed in all its aspects by Colombia's National Police. The U.S. government has said the same thing. Furthermore, the major strike against drug trafficking is in reality the multi-faceted offensive that has been going on in recent months. That sum of small coups is now of more value than any one specific event.

[EL TIEMPO] Isn't there friction and some distance between the different intelligence organizations?

[P.C.] No, I don't think so. They each have their own purpose and they are working toward that goal.

[EL TIEMPO] Intelligence work has been severely criticized. A number of different analysts say that the work being done in this field is still very poor.

[P.C.] I believe it can be improved. But we have made a lot of progress. To give you some idea, we have now computerized our records.

[EL TIEMPO] How do you measure that change in reality?

[P.C.] Well, now in just an instant, in just a second, we can retrieve all the data we have on a criminal. Every day the courts receive up to 2,000 reports from the DIJIN on the same number of people. Intelligence work is based on information. We now have many very modern channels for collecting information. Colombia is the most advanced country in this field in Latin America.

Ecuador

Borja To Resign If Illegal Arms Deal True

PA3108033790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Quito, 30 Aug (AFP)—Today President Rodrigo Borja said that he will continue as president if the charges made by a local radio station about an illegal arms-purchasing deal are found to be untrue. If the charges are found to be untrue, he will suspend the radio station's frequency indefinitely.

During an unscheduled radio and television network appearance, Borja gave Radio Sucre, which is owned by opposition Deputy Vicente Arroba Ditto, a five-day deadline to prove its charges that a brother of the president is reportedly involved in an illegal deal to purchase weapons for the Army.

According to President Borja, two days ago the radio station charged that a deal to illegally acquire weapons for 46.8 billion sucres ($52 million) was underway and that the brother of the president was involved in this deal.

In a speech, Borja reaffirmed his absolute respect for the rights of the citizens, including freedom of expression, but said that "the president represents the country's honor so his honor must be respected."

Borja said that if the charges are found to be true within the next five days, he will resign. If they are found to be false, he will definitely cancel the radio station's frequency.

Radio Sucre, which has stations in various parts of the country, is heard almost throughout the entire country. Its owner is a militant of the Social Christian Party (PSC). He, along with three party militants, obtained a seat in the Chamber of Deputies by securing the largest number of votes in Guayas Province, the country's most populated province.

The PSC, whose leader is former President Leon Febres-Cordero (1984-1988), heads the opposition, which 20 days ago acquired a parliamentary majority.

Agriculture Minister Resigns for Health Reasons

PA3108044590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Quito, 30 Aug (EFE)—Mario Jalil, Ecuadoran minister for agriculture, resigned today for health reasons. He was replaced by Jorge Anhalzer, the technical deputy minister, who will be acting minister until a new one is appointed.

The political questioning that the Ecuadoran Congress is conducting against Jalil for the administrative irregularities that he allegedly committed during his term has continued.

In the early hours on Wednesday and while he defended himself from the accusations leveled at him by six interpellators, Jalil suffered a bout of angina pectoris, which forced him to be interned in the intensive care ward of a Quito hospital.

In his resignation letter, Jalil told President Rodrigo Borja that during his term since March 1989, all of the government's plans and programs to reactivate the agricultural sector were fulfilled.

Jalil said that during the political questioning, which started on Thursday, the country witnessed the arrogant stance of the deputies who form the majority at present and who passed sentence on him in advance without so much as listening to him. He added that he was insulted, offended, and hurt by some legislators.

Jalil is being questioned by some deputies of opposition, rightist, populist, Marxist, and Christian Democratic parties, who accuse him of having commited irregularities with rice imports, of not having a sound agricultural policy, and of neglecting the environment.

Paraguay

Editorial Notes Threat of War in Persian Gulf

PY3008152990 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Aug 90 p 10

[Editorial: "The Nefarious Threat of War"]

[Text] Because of developments in the Persian Gulf, humanity may again suffer a great war, an abominable tragedy that punishes everyone. Although in all wars there are those who vanquish and those who are defeated, everyone really becomes the victims of war without obtaining any real benefit. The loss of lives, the mutilations, and the political, social and family disruptions can never be compensated. They become permanently damaged and there is no glory or material benefit that can ever compensate for these losses.

Wars are an abominable curse. This is why men of superior spirit have made efforts to implement international institutions whose primary purpose is to avoid wars and to seek peaceful solutions to the disputes that emerge between different states. This is the role that is played today by the United Nations which has fully mobilized itself to avoid an encounter in the Persian Gulf, an encounter that may have inconceivable consequences.

The man responsible for causing this distressing situation is Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who has and who continues to be possessed by despicable instincts. Although he engaged in an eight-year war with his neighbor, Iran, he ended this cruel war in a single day merely out of strategic convenience rather than a pacifist conviction or a pacifist spirit. He has now claimed that the independent nation of Kuwait has stolen oil from Iraq. As a solution, he used the Iraqi Armed Forces to invade and annex that small country. This attack is particularly villainous, taking into account that the entire population of Kuwait is less than the one million men who comprise the Iraqi Army; and that Iraq has such extraordinarily modern and powerful equipment that it rates ninth among the best military-equipped nations in the world.

By causing an increase in international oil prices, Husayn is not only mocking the United Nations, he is also harming the entire world, particularly developing countries. This increase will have a tremendous impact on poor countries which will be severely punished because of their need to import this vital source of energy.

The Iraqi president is a true dictator and as such, harbors delusions of grandeur and despises human values. With barbaric thoughtlessness, he threatens to transfer all foreigners in Iraq and the annexed Kuwaiti territory to places that are more exposed to combat. With criminal instinct, he plans to use these foreigners as hostages. They will be true human shields who will be used to protect Husayn from possible attacks by the international forces that are seeking to defend Kuwait and that strive to impede Iraq from spreading the misery brought on by restricting the free oil market.

After being ostracized by the entire world, Husayn harbors demagogic fantasies by describing his cowardly aggression as "a Holy War." He seeks to shock the Muslim religious faith and mobilize the entire Arab world against Israel. This is an old and complex conflict that is very difficult to solve. There is clear condemnation over this use of force which, despite its repeated failures, is being used again. Not only did the war against Israel not solve the issue, but Egypt, the most powerful Arab nation, has begun peace negotiations with Israel to seek prudent and proper solutions like civilized countries.

When humanity seemed to be heading toward a promising coexistence in view of the end of the cold war between the West and East, we must now confront this unfortunate peril which may unleash a war of unforeseen consequences. Saddam Husayn's arrogance has already caused great harm, but a war will be disastrous. Some may say that it will not be a world war because the battle will be circumscribed to a relatively small area, but its nefarious effects will affect the entire world.

Paraguay will also be tremendously affected because oil is vital to us and because among our meager resources, we lack oil reserves. The Persian Gulf conflict is not an event in a distant place for Paraguayans. Because of its repercussions, it could be said to be taking place in the Asuncion bay.

Moreover, in line with our possibilities, we should expedite the adoption of measures that will ease the inevitable damage we will experience. Therefore, the government should study the possibility of rationing oil and all its byproducts. The Government should grant priority to this subject, issue the proper measures, and demand the cooperation of all national sectors.

Commander Garcete Rejects Stroessnerist Militants

PY3008224390 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Aug 90 p 8, 9

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] General Humberto Garcete, commander of the 1st Army, emphasized yesterday that "if the Stroessnerist militants want to return, they will receive a categorical answer from the Armed Forces." When consulted about the issue, he reiterated the position adopted by President Andres Rodriguez, who said that Stroessnerists should go to Brasilia if they want to cheer the former dictator. "In my opinion, they (the militants) should shut up," Gen. Garcete stressed.

"All those who jeopardized and are jeopardizing national security through hate campaigns—which have

done great harm to our country—will receive a categorical answer from the Armed Forces if they want to return, because the Armed Forces are totally against disorder," Gen. Garcete said. He was alluding to the fact that the so-called "militants," who advocate Stroessnerism, now want to return to the political arena.

The commander stressed that "those people will not be allowed to again cause anxiety, unease, and insecurity among the population. We are very well prepared to defend democracy," he said.

Asked about the cheers by the nostalgists of Stroessnerism, Gen. Garcete stressed that "first, we fully agree with the president; if those people want to cheer Stroessner, they should go there (to Brasilia) and accompany him. There is no room for them here." He added: "Everyone knows that they have done much harm to our country. We are always criticizing them. All social organizations, the mass media, and political parties have criticized them. They have also left us many problems. I don't really know why they are cheering. In my opinion, they should shut up. I reiterate: If they want to cheer, they should go to Brasilia and accompany him."

Asked whether the reduction of the Armed Forces budget is an indication that the military sector is supporting the democratization process, the commander said: "At the request of the commander in chief, we are analyzing the issue with the commanders of major units and the Ministry of Defense so that funds may be properly used and channeled to other sectors with more urgent needs at this stage in our country."

He noted, however, that the Armed Forces cannot be weak and small; if that were the case, they would not be respected either locally or abroad, and we have the sacred duty of preserving national sovereignty, as set forth by the Constitution."

He added that those who are in charge of the barracks have the duty to "train our sons as soldiers who will help citizens live in freedom and peace and consolidate this coexistence."

Correction to Communist Party Stages Open Rally

PY2908181790

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Communist Party Stages Open Rally" published in the 29 August Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 52, column two:

Paragraph two, first sentence make read: ...talked about the personality of Antonio Maidana... (rewording)

Paragraph three, first sentence make read: ...of the PCP, as explained to the representatives of the political parties who attended the rally, is "to further broaden this democratic opening and to increase the struggle of the masses." Almost all parties were represented at the rally. [new paragraph] It is worth... (rewording)

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Finland

PY3008175290 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 18 Aug 90 p 7

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell has concluded a visit to Finland where he was received by Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. The meeting with the Finnish president highlighted the "clear similarities" in the foreign policies of Finland and Uruguay.

"Despite the geographical distance between Uruguay and Finland we defend the same principles in the international field," the foreign minister told the Finnish media, referring to values like nonintervention, the right to self- determination, and the role of the United Nations in solving conflicts.

During his conversation with the Uruguayan foreign minister, Koivisto expressed interest in visiting the region. Gros Espiell expressed the hope of the Uruguayan Government and President Luis Alberto Lacalle that they will receive the Finnish president in Montevideo in the near future.

The foreign minister established the bases for future cooperation in the fields of forestry, environment, and technical education during the negotiations he held in Finland with the special government organization for development assistance.

Armu Heinonen, [name as published] the director of the mentioned organization, said: "Although Uruguay is at the limit —because it is not considered a poor country— of the countries that cannot receive assistance, there are ways in which Finnish companies may adapt to the Uruguayan reality.

Venezuela

Oil Production Increased by 60,000 Barrels Daily

PA3008165090 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] While OPEC was concluding its meeting in Vienna, Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. [PDVSA] was holding an extraordinary assembly meeting in Caracas to review budget allotments for production and exploration that will increase the industry's potential to 3 million barrels daily in 1993 and 3.5 million barrels daily in 1995.

The executive branch has approved an increase of 8.3 billion bolivars. Therefore, in order to comply with these plans, the petroleum industry's new budget will increase to 120 billion bolivars.

As of this moment, the petroleum industry will produce an additional 60,000 barrels daily, and by December 1990 it will be producing 2.86 million barrels daily.

Perez: OPEC Production Agreement 'Success'

PA3108022590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0113 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Caracas, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—President Carlos Andres Perez said today that the temporary agreement reached by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase crude oil production is a success.

In Vienna, the 13 OPEC countries have agreed to temporarily increase their oil production because of the UN economic blockade imposed on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports.

Perez announced that the excess crude oil authorized by the oil cartel will be used to meet the requests of Third World countries.

Perez said that the state company, Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA), will meet the demands of its customers. He reported that Venezuela has the capacity to increase its oil production by 500,000 additional barrels.

OPEC's decision is considered a diplomatic victory for Venezuela, which will receive unexpected additional revenues of foreign currency, political sources have said.

After Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, both countries stopped their exports of crude oil, which prompted an increase in oil prices that has exceeded the $30 per barrel mark.

Perez Defends OPEC Decision

PA3108030390 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has defended the OPEC countries' agreement to increase their oil production. He said that price equilibrium and supply-and-demand stability are a responsibility of the consuming countries.

The chief of state attended a ceremony commemorating the 15th anniversary of the creation of Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. There he announced the creation of a National Petroleum Commission whose task will be to advise the office of the president.

At the commemoration President Perez recalled that Venezuela Petroleum, Inc., is evidence that the Venezuelans can perform great achievements whenever they want to. He also said that other sectors in the country need the sort of agreement that was reached by the oil sector to produce a national oil policy capable of promoting its development.

He also spoke about the latest OPEC agreement. He said that the organization, with the endorsement of eleven of its member countries, has demonstrated that equilibrium in the international oil market is the responsibility of both the producing and the consumer countries and that stable prices are more suitable for everybody than outrageous prices that would damage and produce losses on the world economy, damage and losses that would later boomerang in the form of high interest rates and expensive consumer goods.

The president said that by increasing its oil production, Venezuela will be contributing with brotherly countries to create a hemispheric strategic oil reserves policy, a proposal that has been made to the U.S. Government in the framework of talks on sales to supply strategic reserves to that big power.

Venezuela, the president said, is the only country that can provide this kind of continental supply. He explained that the nation has accomplished much in the 30 years it has been a member of OPEC.

[Begin Perez recording] We have been going through a crisis and OPEC's ability to face this crisis has been tested. A national debate on this issue has lasted several weeks and has kept us involved. We have shown due respect for others' opinions, but we have been acting based on the historic policy of Venezuela, a policy that has been shaped by the country's various sectors, and the country has insisted that safeguarding OPEC does not go against the nation's interests. [end recording]

Acting Energy and Mines Minister Rafael Guevara has said that Venezuela will sell oil to Brazil, India, Spain, and other countries.

[Begin Guevara recording] Venezuela has several priorities. First, it has to take care of its traditional clients. It also has to pay attention to countries requesting our cooperation in the form of oil supplies, to countries with which we have international agreements of some sort, like Spain for example. The countries of the San Jose Agreement will be guaranteed the amounts of oil agreed on. [end recording]

Envoy Resigns Over 'Awkward' Foreign Policy

PA3008153290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1430 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Caracas, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The local press has reported today that Venezuelan Ambassador to Kuwait Jose de Jesus Osio resigned his post because he feels that "the Venezuelan foreign policy is awkward and improvised."

Osio, together with his wife, two children, and an assistant, had to travel across the desert for 36 hours to leave Kuwait after the Iraqi Government ordered the closure of embassies there.

However, Ambassador Osio could not help some 30 Venezuelans who are still in Kuwait because the Foreign Ministry would not provide him with the necessary means to do so.

According to the local press, Osio, who is safe and sound in Turkey, sent a letter to President Carlos Andres Perez notifying him of his resignation.

Osio requested the attorney general and the Senate's intervention to clarify the "errors" committed by the Foreign Ministry in transferring Venezuelans from the occupied territory of Kuwait.

Guyana

UK Writes Off, Reschedules Part of Debt

FL2908222090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] Aug 29, CANA—Britain on Wednesday announced it was writing off 5.5 million of the 32.5 million pounds sterling the Guyana Government owes it. It has also agreed to reschedule the remaining 27 million pounds sterling at a concessional rate of interest of 5.2 per cent commencing in 1992, the British High Commission here said in a statement.

An agreement paving the way for the debt rescheduling/forgiveness was signed Wednesday by Guyana's Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and outgoing British High Commissioner David Small.

The British Government will waive payment of the debt due from April 1989 to March 1992, while an agreement is in place between Guyana and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This means that some 1.8 million pounds sterling per annum will be forgiven during the three-year period.

The high commission said the 5.2 per cent concessional interest rate on the rescheduled portion of the debt, was "far lower than the present prevailing rate in London of about 15 per cent".

The agreement forms part of the British Government's support for Guyana's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) and was signed within the framework of a decision by the Paris Club to reschedule Guyana's more than two billion U.S. dollars in external debt.

Britain has already agreed to provide Guyana with a 13.7 million pounds sterling grant for the purchase of spare parts for the local rice sector and oil for Guyana. The UK is also providing 3.4 million pounds sterling to pay some of Guyana's debts to British firms and a 10.5 million U.S. dollar bridging loan to help Guyana pay its arrears to multilateral financial institutions and for technical assistance funding.

The official Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) Wednesday quoted Greenidge as saying the agreement marked the completion of government-to-government negotiations between the two countries. He said the only agreement remaining to be signed with other Paris Club creditors was one with the Government of Japan and this would be done by an exchange of letters.

IMF Praises Efforts To Improve Economy

FL3008183290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 30, CANA—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised the Guyana Government for its "courage and determination" in implementing its IMF-linked recovery programme for the country's ailing economy. In a letter to President Desmond Hoyte, managing director of the Fund, Michel Camdessus, said:

"By adoption of the Economic Recovery Programme, your government has shown courage and determination in implementing measures to correct the problems that have beset the economy of Guyana."

The recovery programme includes devaluation of the Guyana dollar, selling of financially troubled state enterprises, and greater emphasis on exports.

"Progress has been achieved in many important areas, but I know you are well aware there is still a long way to go if Guyana is to achieve sustained and satisfactory economic growth," the IMF chief said.

"Indeed, conditions may continue to be difficult for a time and it will be of critical importance that you and your colleagues maintain the effort to improve Guyana's economic situation."

Camdessus says he is confident full implementation of the government's programme, with the continued support of the Fund and the international financial community, "will bring lasting benefits to the Guyanese people."

The government's intensified collaborative approach programme with the Fund started on July 1. The June 15 devaluation of the Guyana dollar from 33 Guyana dollars for one U.S. dollar to 45 to one is an integral part of the programme.